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BIRD NOTES.

The Journal of the Foreign Bird Club for the Study of all Species of Birds in Freedom and Captivity.

VOLUME VI. SERIES III.

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.,
AUTHOR OF "AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE," ETC.

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Secretary's Report.

We fear history is somewhat repeating itself, for the "troublous times," referred to in our report for 1922, are still with us; yet, we can say once again "We have held our own," therefore the "mutual gratulation" of last year was not amiss!

But, it is not all gratulation, for even this carries the reverse, inasmuch as we have made but little progress towards pre-war strength and activity

Aviculture has not yet come into its own since Armagedon was let loose, yet signs are not wanting that a revival is near at hand, if not already commenced, both as to the Breeding of Species, and also to their Exhibition. Several notable successes have been achieved in the breeding of a species for the first time—we may *en passant* mention Mr. Shore Baily's successful breeding of the White-breasted Waterhen, Mons. A. Decoux's with the White-capped Tanager, and Capt. Stokes' with the Lilac-crowned Fruit-Pigeon, and, we think, there may be others, when the exact species of the birds concerned has been ascertained. As this revival increases, the difficulties with which we have had to contend with in these post-war times, should automatically disappear.

As to coloured plates our hopes have not been realised, but we do not expect to have to repeat this phrase in our next report.

There is still some slackness in the payment of subscriptions on the part of a small section of our members, much increasing working expenses, and the secretarial work, besides causing annoyance and irritation—this may be carried to the extent of causing the retirement of some—the Club's claims upon their time and energy is very heavy, and *voluntary* workers are not easy to replace!

Bird Notes, the Club Journal, though appearing only bi-monthly at present, 1923 Vol. will compare favourably with its predecessors in all their features, viz: bulk, diversity of contents, practical information, and illustrations.

The needs of the present are so similar to those of a year ago, that we have no hesitation in repeating ourselves in the closing stage of our report.

The lethargy that has been so marked during the post-war years still lingers. Shall we permit this to continue?

Our income is still insufficient for the effectual working of the Club, and we commend this point to the thoughtful consideration of every member—we are assured that very few, if any, would care to see the illustrations or text matter of Bird Notes curtailed, surely it is the reverse all desire!

This year we have had dies sunk, so that we now really have a *Club*

Breeding Medal. These are sunk in bronze, and a facsimile appears facing page 175. The actual size is 2in. dia.

As soon as possible a Balance Sheet will be issued, and it will then be seen that the costs of producing BIRD NOTES and Medals more than swallow our income; the working expenses are very low, some £20 mainly postage and *necessary* stationery, etc.

The effort to remove all difficulty and embarrassment in running the Club, required from each individual member is slight indeed. To achieve this, four cardinal points stand obviously in the forefront of our need, viz:

(*i*) An increased interest in the working details of our society by each member.

(*ii*) More contributors to BIRD NOTES.

(*iii*) An increased membership.

(*iv*) Prompt payment of subscriptions, and an attendance to those small details which will materially reduce the secretarial correspondence, and at the same time reduce the Club's postal expenses.

This accomplished all else will follow as a natural sequence.

A. E. SNAPE, *Hon. Business Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Cape Sparrow at Nest.

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

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BIRD NOTES.

THE
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Some African Sparrows in My Aviaries in 1922.

By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Africa is a big continent, and can boast of a dozen or more different species of Sparrows. Of these two or three species only are at all regularly imported. Being only Sparrows I suppose there is not a very great demand for them, which is, perhaps, not very much to be wondered at, as most of them are very plainly coloured and none have any song.

However, there is one really handsome fellow amongst them, and that is the Cape Sparrow (*Passer arcuatus*). The cock bird has the upper parts, tail, and wings a rich cinnamon; the crown of the head, feathers around the eyes, ear coverts, cheeks, throat, and fore-neck black; a streak above the eye, sides of neck, breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white. The hen has the parts that are black in the male brownish, and the white parts buffish-white.

For many years I had two hens of this fine sparrow, but was unable to get cocks, as none seem to have been imported for quite a long period. However, about two years ago I found a couple of cocks at Hamlyn's, among a lot of common South African birds, and secured them. These I mated last Spring with my two old hens, now seven years old at least. I turned them into separate aviaries, and both pairs went to nest in due course.

One pair proved a failure, their two or three clutches of eggs proving infertile.

The other pair were more successful, for after one failure three nice young ones left the nest. Two of these were hens and were quite abnormal in plumage; the other—a cock—closely resembled its female parent. The two little hens had the wings and tail almost entirely white, other parts like the adult female,

only duller. They were queer little objects as they flew about the aviary. When about two months old the young cock began to assume the adult plumage, and, when four months old, was practically indistinguishable from its male parent. At this age the two young hens still retained a large amount of white in their wings and tail, but it was noticeably getting darker. Late in October another brood were hatched, but, although they

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Cock Cape Sparrow taking a feather to nest.

appeared to do well for two or three weeks, I do not think they ever left the nest, or if they did they must have died soon afterwards, as I never saw any trace of them. Possibly, so late in the year the insect supply ran a bit short, and as no live or artificial food, excepting bread and milk, was provided, the young ones were inadequately nourished.

Another first success in these aviaries was with the Grey-headed Sparrow (*Passer swainsoni*). After two attempts a single young bird was reared in a coco-nut husk. This little one only differed from its parents by the absence of the white wing bar, so noticeable a feature in the adult birds. It was rather a

shy little bird at first, but after a week or two was quite capable of holding its own with the other occupants of the aviary—weavers, buntings, grosbeaks, etc.

A less successful attempt was made by my Yellow-throated Sparrows (*Petronia petronella*). This is the Diamond Sparrow of South and East Africa, and does not seem to be very freely imported. Its chief distinguishing marks are a broad buff eyebrow-streak, and a bright yellow spot on the

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Hen Yellow-throated Sparrow at nest.

throat. As in the last named species the sexes are alike, and it is very difficult to pick out true pairs; to this I attribute my want of success, as, in all probability, I was trying to breed from two hens. These birds went to nest three times in an artificial log. Three eggs were laid each time, of the usual sparrow type, but noticeably smaller than those of *Passer arcuatus* and *P. swainsoni*, and having a slight gloss. If I can get hold of a cock I shall hope to breed them this coming season. I rather think that the species has not yet been bred in England.

Another Sparrow that came into my possession rather late in the autumn was the Benguella Sparrow (*Passer motitonsis*). These birds were sold to me, in quite good faith, as Mahali Weavers (*Ploceipasser mahali*), but, as I had kept a cock Mahali for the last two years, I at once knew that they had been misnamed. The general colour of the male above is pale cinnamon; upper tail-coverts ashy brown; median wing-coverts blackish, tipped with white, forming a wing-bar; crown of head and hind neck pale pearly grey; over the lores a small white spot, continued in a broad eyebrow-streak of pale cinnamon, widening out on the sides of the neck; lores and lower margin of eyelid black, continued in a line along the upper part of the ear-coverts, which are pale ashy; the cheeks pure white, forming a streak which widens out on each side of the neck; throat and foreneck black; chest and underparts white; flanks and sides brownish. Female altogether duller.

With the exception of a cock I bought about ten years ago, with a number of mixed S. African birds, these are the first specimens I have seen, so I cannot think that they are often imported. If I can get them to survive the winter, I shall hope to breed them this season, and so win another F.B.C. medal.

Hybrid Doves, etc.

By E. Sprankling.

In Bird Notes for 1913 I gave a few notes on the breeding of Turtle Dove hybrids, etc., a brief summary of same being that in the spring of 1913 a first cross hybrid male dove (the produce of a ♂ Turtle and a ♀ Barbary Dove) mated with a Common Barbary hen and bred and reared three young, two being fawn-coloured like an ordinary Barbary Dove, and one grey (a male) like the ground colour of the parent hybrid father, all with a slight distinguishing mark in the beak. This mark, which enabled me to distinguish my hybrid fawns from pure Barbary Doves, was the red colour of the fleshy base or gape of beak. They also showed a slight fullness later, in the width of the neck rings, especially at the sides, but the rings met at the back of neck just as in the Common Barbary.

In 1914 I mated this young grey male to a common Barbary hen, my net result being two youngsters, one grey and one fawn; these were indistinguishable from the type of the true Barbary, in every way.

In 1915 I bred one grey only. In 1916 only one light or fawn coloured dove was bred, and in 1917-18, owing to the war, no birds were bred. I simply retained all the stock I could, and when the war ended I was left with one grey male and two fawn (grey-bred) birds—a male and a female.

In 1919 the grey male was mated to the above female, and they produced and fully reared four youngsters, two being grey males, one grey female, and one fawn male. The male parent of these birds was hatched in 1915, and was a lovely specimen both in form and colour. On August 11th, 1919, I found him dead.

I had no result in 1920, owing no doubt to my pairing one of the 1919-bred grey males to his nest sister, and the other grey male to the fawn mother; they were evidently too closely related.

In 1921 two greys and one fawn dove were fully reared, the result of mating the 1919 grey males to two hen Barbary Doves; one of these grey youngsters died in the moult, the other grey turned out to be a female, and the fawn-coloured bird a male. The 1919 grey hen mated to the 1919-bred fawn-coloured male; two lots of eggs were laid, but were all infertile, again evidently too closely related although strong, healthy looking specimens. This grey hen was killed by a pigeon in 1921.

This year (1922) I mated the grey 1921-bred hen to a grey 1919-bred male, but although several clutches of eggs were laid, none proved fertile. The other grey 1919-bred male I again mated, as in 1921, to his Barbary mate, and they produced and fully reared two fawns only. This grey male mated with an odd hen Turtle dove penned in the same aviary, and one egg out of the clutch hatched, but unfortunately died when about three days old. Last night, December 29th, a rat got into this aviary, and although there were three fawns there (the Barbary hen and two young) he must needs select and kill the grey male, and leave the remains in one corner. However, when the brute returns to finish his repast I am hopeful that the cold,

steely reception I have prepared for him will complete the tragedy.*

I consider these grey birds now, as a new colour form of Barbary Dove, but the fertility of the female is not by any means so great as that of the male.

The above notes would be incomplete without some description of these grey doves, so I will generally state that they are of true Barbary Ring Dove type, differing only in colour, the breast, head and neck being of a pale, even-toned lilac, greyer on lower breast and merging into white at under tail-coverts; wing-coverts and back a greyish brown tone, with primaries darker; the greyish back merging into a more bluish tone underneath the wings. The tail-feathers are dark greyish, with lighter markings, as in Barbary Doves; also the colour of eyes, legs, and beak being similar to these last named doves.

I am not sure whether these notes will be of much general interest, or whether you, Mr. Editor, will be able to find room for same, but failing this I know the W.P.B can take a lot.

"Au Secours."

By B. Theo. Stewart.

The Widow Brown grew tearful.

For the sixth time she had assured her irate landlord that the rent would be forthcoming next week, and for the twelfth time he had answered her that he didn't believe it.

"If you can't pay it now, 'ow can you next week?" he demanded. "Tell me that."

The Widow couldn't.

"My brother in Australia—" she mentioned.

Mr. Green lost control of himself, and consigned the Widow Brown's brother to a place hotter than where his sister declared him to be now living, whereat she grew tearful, and Mr. Green uttered again his monotonous request for the rent.

* You will be glad to know that the tragedy has been completed, for the rat returned on New Year's Eve and met his fate. As conjectured, the animal proved to be a male.

"Au secours!" said a small voice at this deadlock. "Au secours!"

The landlord wheeled round and met the cunning eye of the Widow's pet cockatoo.

"Why don't you sell that dratted bird?" he inquired. "Some folk," he added doubtfully, "might fancy it."

But the Widow shook her head.

"I can't part with Joey," she quavered. "Poor Tom left him me. 'Take care of Joey,' he said when he was a dying, 'he'll bring you luck.'"

"Pring you to the workhouse more like!" snorted Mr. Green. "I don't 'old with birds in a 'ouse, but what I wants is my rent, see?"

"Yes," said the Widow Brown dolefully, "next week!" But her tone was so hopeless that the landlord might be excused for doubting it.

"Well, you'd better 'ave it, that's all, or you an' me'll part, and that's my last word!"

And it really was.

"Au secours!" said Joey. "Au secours."

But the Widow only wept.

* * * *

There is no use striving against Fate, and a few days later found the Widow timidly entering the bird shop of Catchem & Sellem."

Would they buy her pet?

For the next ten minutes she wondered what bird shops existed for.

No, they didn't want no cockatoos—no sale for 'em! Destructive, screaming bird, hers was—never mind if it did talk—never mind if it was beautiful—ladies had come there and gone down on their bended knees to beg them to have their cockatoos as a gift, had even offered them good money to take the birds, and they wouldn't. If it had been a dog, now, that she had to offer, or a kitten, or a pair of love birds, they were prepared to give fabulous prices for these—but cockatoos, no!

As she was leaving the shop the proprietor called her

Lack. If she liked to leave the bird for a few days he would try and sell it for her, "but only as a favour, mind!"

And reluctantly she agreed.

She sobbed as she left Joey swinging on his ring in his battered old cage, but a speculative look shone in Joey's eyes as he gazed round the shop.

"Au secours!" he screamed.

* * * *

The Widow spent three sleepless nights thinking of her feathered legacy which she had parted with for ever.

"I didn't ought to have done it," she said to herself. "I know I'll never see him again."

Finally she turned her steps in the direction of the bird shop.

Vaguely she looked round. Had he gone? Her heart sank, and then—

"Take your blasted bird away," shouted the proprietor, and Joey and his cage were rudely thrust into her arms. "He's nearly wrecked my shop! Got out and clawed up half the fixtures, bitten the missus, and—"

"Didn't no one fancy him?" faltered the Widow.

"Yes! one gent did, and I thought it was a deal—made a fuss of him, let him crawl all over him and then the blasted bird starting screaming, and fair drew him off! Take him out of my sight and his silly jibberish!"

Tenderly the Widow carried him home.

"I don't know what'll become of us," she whispered, but Joey only chuckled—he knew!

Joey's cage was in dreadful need of a clean up, and the bird watched her with a cunning eye as she threw out the seed husks and sand, and the bits of wood and cigarette ends that the bird treasured. There was a crust of stale bread soaking in his water tin, together with a piece of paper.

As the Widow emptied it, some lettering caught her eye. She unfolded it with trembling hands.

It was a bank note for five pounds!

"Au secours!" shouted Joey. "Au secours!"

Photo by C. R. Young.

Weaver-birds' Nests—Zanzibar.

A Few Notes on an East African Weaver.

By Chas. R. Young.

The two photos, illustrating these notes represent Weaver-birds' nests in situ, were taken, one at Sheikh, Othman, about ten miles from Aden, and the other at Zanzibar.

I am not sure what species the birds were, but I have seen so many of them that I should know them immediately if I saw them (presumably Orange or Crimson-crowned Weavers.—Ed.), yet to describe them in detail is by no means easy. The cocks were a rather bright orange and flame-coloured about the head, some more so than others, so I thought as I watched them disporting in their native haunts. The hens were comparatively dull coloured birds. I have seen them in British, German (late), and Portugese East Africa; also in Zanzibar.

The note was a not unmusical trill, often uttered on the wing, and reminded me somewhat of a linnet.

Size about that of a Chaffinch, possibly a little larger, bill rather hefty.

I feel sure the nests in both photos were built by the same species.

The eggs were white and transparent.

I saw them in great numbers and at many places, but I was never more than a few months in any one place, and could never find anyone acquainted with their names or who knew anything about them. One thing is evident: I saw them in such numbers, that if there be an Orange-coloured bird and a Flame-coloured one it must be the commonest species of the two, unless both be equally common.

I have always regretted I was never able to learn much about the birds while there; this specially applies to the mainland of Mozambique, which was a veritable paradise for a lover of beautifully coloured birds.

The Zanzibar photo I took while lying on my back, snapping at angle of 60 to 70 degrees.

[We think the species which built the nests was the Crimson-crowned Weaver (*Pyromelana flammiceps*), as both descriptions seem to fit this species. It might possibly be the Orange Weaver (*P. franciscana*), but we have little doub that it was the first named species which Mr. Chas. R. Young describes.—Ed.]

The Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla lugubris*).

By R. Suggitt.

The Pied Wagtail is one of the most charming and desirable of our small insectivorous birds, either for a medium-sized or large aviary. He is always beautiful, active and dainty. He is easily kept in good health, and, being a resident does not need to be taken into shelter during the winter.

This species has nested several times in my aviary, but without much success until the summer of 1921, when one young bird was reared to be quite independent of its parents, although owing to an unfortunate oversight on my part, it never reached maturity.

The pair I then possessed were caught as immature birds in the previous autumn (1920), and they spent the winter in the largest division of my aviary.

A nest was completed by the hen in a Hartz-cage in the highest part of the shelter-shed on May 25th, and the full clutch of five eggs hatched on June 15th.

Flying insects were abundant, and it is possible that the young might have been reared on those the parents could catch for themselves in the enclosure.

A small piece of meat placed in a box, with wire-netting over the top, attracted numerous blow flies, and these were eagerly snapped up by the parents. In addition liberal supplies of mealworms, spiders and gentles were provided.

Three youngsters were out of the nest by June 27th, the remaining two having died when a few days old. All went well until a few days later, when entering the aviary rather suddenly, I startled one of the young birds which was perched in the shelter shed, and it flew with great force into an unguarded glass weather screen along the top of the otherwise open front of the shelter, and fell to the ground dead.

The same fate overtook the other two youngsters, the last one breaking its neck when it was more than six weeks old. It was a fine bird, a cock I think. It was well on the "soft-food," and able to forage for itself.

I ought to have remembered that some years before, I lost two young hybrid Ouzels in a similar manner. Young

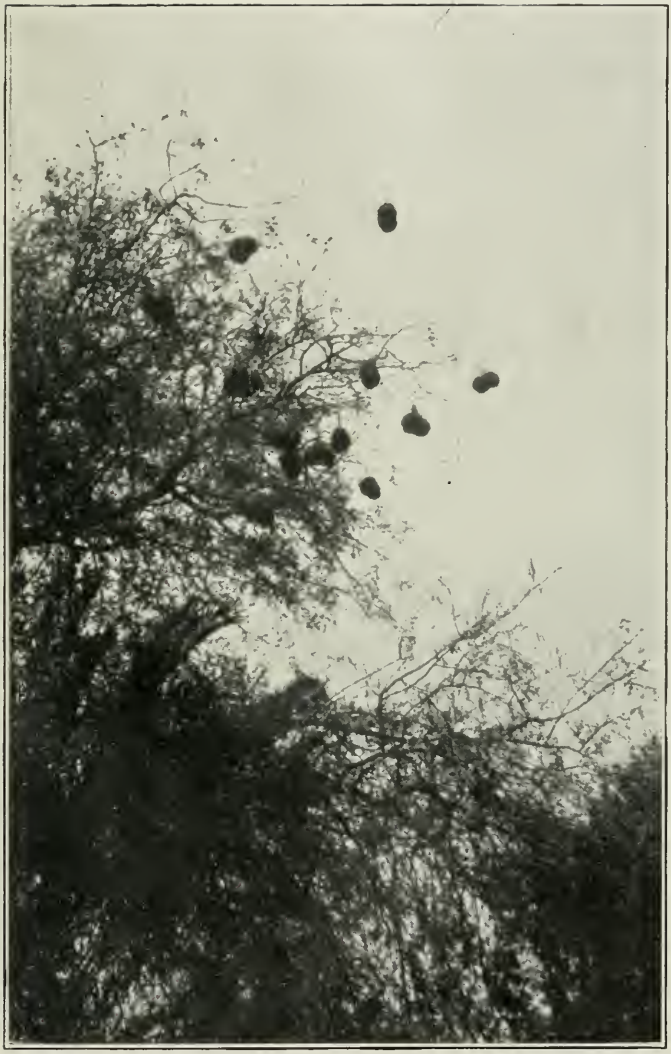

Photo by C. R. Young.

Weaver-birds' Nests—Sheikh Othman, near Aden.

birds hatched in confinement are often very wild, and it is not to be expected that they can "sense" clear glass. It is better to have all windows and glass partitions in an aviary painted or whitewashed on the inner side.*

The Pied Wagtail is not aggressive towards other birds in the aviary, but will fight savagely with any other of its own species. Even in the breeding season the sexes are not on the best of terms. The hen will scarcely allow the cock to go near the nest, and I have seen him wait quite a long time with a beakful of insects until the coast has been clear for him to feed the young ones with safety.

The cock died early in the winter of 1921, and before the following spring I introduced no less than three other cocks separately, all of which the hen killed.

The hen is still going strong, and has another mate. I caught her up, and let the cock have the aviary to himself for a fortnight, after which I released her, and they soon settled down peacefully.

Some Finches I have kept.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

In this series I shall not keep strictly to finches as commonly understood, but wander at will among the Families PLOCEIDÆ and FRINGILLIDÆ.

I think I cannot do better than commence with the plebeain Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), for certainly no series of "Finches I have kept" can be complete with this interesting and perky species omitted, and I do not know of any more fitting species to make a start with.

By the way, what have we aviculturists been doing to this pretty, if common and well-known, species? In the past one had only to turn a pair into a garden aviary to have a crowd there by the end of the season—now such is by no means the

* This precaution is a very necessary and important one; for, young birds bred in captivity are born with their wild instincts unimpaired, and are mostly very wild when they make their exit from the nest. Moreover, I know of many valuable adult birds who have similarly perished from flying against unprotected glass.—W.T.P.

case, for, antagonistic as it is to their known nature there are many pairs that show but little inclination to breed, even though given roomy and natural quarters—I know of several excellent aviaries in which it is quite a shy breeder, or does not breed at all, yet time was, when one had only to put a pair into a cage and young followed in due course even easier than with canaries. I think it is quite time we put in some observation along these lines to seek out the reason. Effect is only too apparent, but for one, do not know the cause.

My first pairs of this species are a pleasant and interesting memory, knowing, at that time, very little about foreign birds I recognised them as finches and treated them as such.

For my first few foreigners, some 40 years ago, I stripped a greenhouse (12ft. x 8ft.) of its staging, beat down the earthen floor, put felt over the glass roof and made a wire-netting lobby round the door, and afterwards set out for a Midland bird dealer's. So far as I can remember I came back with pairs of Budgerigars, Red-headed Lovebirds, Zebra Finches, Cut-throats, a Madagascar Weaver in full colour, ditto an Orange Weaver (what wonderful birds I thought those brilliant weavers then, and how I fetched all and sundry to look at every nest they wove together—one smiles now, but, nevertheless, happy memories indeed!) and one or two other birds, whose species I cannot call to mind. But yes, there was a pair of Java Sparrows among them, one with a black head and neck (dealer said it was the cock), and one with white face patches—well I got these birds home, a full dozen altogether, together with a couple of coco-nut husks. On arrival I took them into the converted greenhouse, hung the travelling cages upon nails, fitted up seed hoppers, scattered some over the floor, filled up a large shallow dish with water, opened the cage doors and locked up for the night. Thus my first pair of Zebra Finches came home and found a place in my bird-room (I actually called it an aviary!) and heart!

In the morning I naturally went first thing to have a look at my new possessions—all were climbing or flying about the place, and seed hoppers and water vessel offered abundant evidence that they had already fed and bathed, but now after this digression as to how they came to me, this little yarn only

concerns the Zebra Finches, the other kinds being merely sidelights of the story.

When stripping the greenhouse I left a number of wire wall boxes, which had contained pots of drooping plants, hanging, partly filling them with hay and throwing a small heap of coarse hay and straw in one corner of the birdroom. On that first morning the pair of Zebra Finches had already settled themselves upon the top of one of them, and as I entered the little cock hopped upon the edge of the basket and trumpeted forth his little song. I stood still with astonishment for I had never heard the like before, and then burst into a hearty laugh, for the little beggar looked so perky, impudent and ridiculous as he thus thrust himself upon my notice—my readers, I expect, are laughing at the writer as being equally absurd. Be that as it may, I often ask myself now will such times ever come again? I still get exciting times when new species come in, but nothing like the verdant charm of those early days of foreign bird-keeping.

Within a week that mass of hay I had pushed into the wire-basket was moulded into shape, the entrance hole being through one of the meshes of the basket, and the whole roofed in with straw—how I watched and marvelled as the little cock Zebra Finch struggled with a five-foot-long wheat straw, holding it by the ear, and after many attempts got it to the nest, then with much effort got it bent and twisted as the first rafters of the roof; others followed in similar fashion, but even when complete that roof was a sort of open-trellis contraption and did not satisfy Mr. Zebra, as it left his spouse too exposed, and he set to work and filled in the gaps with hay—I have seen endless Zebra Finches' nests since then, but never one quite like it, for it was a bit of a marvel in its way and certainly when completed one of the snuggest and most compact I have seen, and about a fortnight later I saw small white eggs in the nest, and one morning, about six weeks after their purchase, five little Zebra Finches were flying about the aviary and squawking around their parents near the food hoppers.

The nidification of the Zebra Finch is well known, and I need not go into details concerning same. I had been a keeper of British finches for years, from boyhood in fact, mostly

catching my own birds, before I was attracted to foreigners—'twas a book of the late Dr. Greene's that enslaved me—so I had some little knowledge of bird-keeping, and I supplied soft-food, canary, white millet, millet sprays, dried ants' eggs, and greenfood for their delectation; on this they throve and reared their young.

Quick as the Zebra Finches were, the Cutthroats beat them by nearly a week, but that is another story.

I have kept many pairs of Zebra Finches since then, and numbers of young have been reared and sold, but for the last two years I have had two pairs in quite large aviaries—shelter double the size of my first bird-room, and a flight with a floor area of about one thousand superficial feet, yet the sole result has been one young bird, and of the two pairs but a single cock remains, and I cannot understand the reason why! Though the weather has often been dull, sunless, cold and wet, it has not been really severe, and Zebras have, without difficulty passed through really arctic periods successfully with me many times in the past, and cold, wet summers too, and yet done well.

As aviculturists I think we should seek out the why and wherefore of such problems as these.

In this series I do not propose to follow any definite period of my birdy experience, nor yet any regular sequence of either of the Families *Ploceidae* or *Fringillidae*, but merely to wander as fancy leads.

Olive Finch (*Phonipara lepida*): This species is now mostly offered as the Cuban Olive Finch, but I prefer its shorter and original name. It was about 1910 when I first possessed a pair of this lovely species, but it was not till 1913 that I first succeeded in breeding the species, though several unsuccessful attempts were made prior to the successful one. How strange and unaccountable a bird's mind (or instinct) often appears to us humans, and in no particular is it more strange than in the choice of a nesting-site—often it appears as if they argued that seclusion is best found in the comparatively open than in the copse or thicket—this was markedly so with this pair of Olive Finches; the first attempt was in a nest box hanging 12ft. high in the flight, but unscreened; their next attempt was in a similar box, also high up, but screened by a hazel bush; yet a third

unsuccessful attempt was in another box, on the opposite side of the aviary, hanging under the eave of the shelter-shed, about 9ft. above the ground, and right over the shelter door which gave ingress to the flight. I was very disappointed at this continued use of nest-boxes, for nothing delights me more than the birds building natural nests amid natural cover, and there

was an abundance of the latter in this aviary, and, I think, more naturally arranged than in any aviary I have ever possessed—the dimensions of the flight were 28ft. x 23ft. x 15ft. high—and the nest-boxes in the aviary were few in number compared with the occupants, as I wished to force the birds to nest in natural cover if possible.

Along the back and one side of aviary were established

hedges of hazel, hawthorn, privet and elder—the flight was built over them, which accounted for its height—the tops of which grew through the roof of flight, yet the Olives did not use them, but chose a group of docks, growing right in the open and close by the side of the path, yet so cunningly was the nest concealed amid the seed-heads of the docks that incubation had commenced before the nest was discovered—the photo, reproduced herewith, was taken after the three young birds had flown. This was their fourth attempt and initial success.

The young were three weeks old when they left the nest, and for a time looked queer, bob-tailed little birds, and were of a nondescript dull olive-green colour, but it was not long before their orange throat and facial markings began to show. While in the nest the parent bird took soft-food, seed, and insects to their offspring indiscriminately, and there was no check in their development—the weather was fine and warm from the date of hatching to their exit from the nest, which was followed by a couple of showery warm days, succeeded by another fine spell.

They were stalked many times with a reflex camera, but refused to be wooed, spending most of their time after leaving the nest amid the thickest growth in the aviary, and were only occasionally seen at the food hoppers, retiring to thick cover at once, when they were conscious of being observed. However, they became less retiring after the moult, and were then often seen disporting about the aviary.

This pair reared me two more broods the following year. In both these later cases the nests were natural ones, one in a thick privet bush, among the twigy top branches, and the other in the fork of a large elder tree, well screened by short, stubby leafy twigs. The details were much the same as with their first brood, and need not be repeated.

I found them quite amiable amid a series of some 150 birds, from a Waxbill to a Thrush, though they would not permit any other bird to remain in the vicinity of their nest. It has been stated that they are antagonistic to their near relative the Cuban Finch (*P. canora*), but I did not find this to be the case, at the same time there was no friendship between the two species. They did not visit the seed dishes together,

Waterfowl at Blairstown, N.J., U.S.A.

nor did they perch in near vicinity to each other, but it was a rare thing to see them spar, and both species were in my Mitcham aviary together for three years, each species successfully nesting and bringing up their young.

(To be continued).

Correspondence.

A TRIP TO EUROPE FOR BIRDS.

Sir,—Though not in accord with title at head of this, possibly the enclosed photo of some of my water-fowl may interest "B.N." readers. There are Egyptian Geese, Canvas-back Ducks, and Mallard in the back-ground. The White Swans in the centre I procured from Ilminster, England

I am much interested in Bird Notes, but quite a few issues get lost in the post unfortunately. "Notes on Jungle and other Wild Life" was most interesting; so, to me, was Mrs. Dickenson's article "A Seeker after Bird Marts"—in fact I believe this lady and I would make a great team, for it is always a bee-line for the bird market the first thing for me.

As you may recall I was in England last January, but had not the pleasure of meeting you, and my wanderings to the bird stores in every town visited reminded me of Mrs. Dickinson's article.

Those in London did not impress me very much.—The Zoo was good, but much too crowded. Rotterdam for some reason had the Macaws, etc., shut off from the public. Amsterdam was the best Zoological Garden visited in the whole trip and Mr. Portilje made the day a memorable one for me. To Amsterdam also goes the courtesies extended by Mr. Blaauw.

As regards the acquirement of birds my trip was practically a failure. No bird stores were found, nor yet did I wish to be encumbered with them at the very start. For this reason Belgium and Germany yielded nothing, but the Sunday bird market in Paris and I were close friends. Here acquisitions began and were added to at Toulouse and Marseilles. At this latter place Black Swans with young gave me a terrible shock, for I had twelve at one time and never saw even an egg.

Nice had two bird stores, in one of which I thought the price demanded meant for the whole business, so I bought nothing.

Stores visited in France, Rome, and Naples yielded nothing, but Turin did.

As I went over hoping to acquire White Peafowl, Geese and Ducks my trip from that standpoint was a failure. Cage birds and a dog however did increase the collection a little.

In the West Indies it is different—very few stores, yet natives can be dug up, if you enquire long and hard enough, who have this or that bird. Macaws on sticks, Parrots on the hand, are the first and last you see at the

larger islands. Coolictown in Trinidad boasts a store, with a grand assortment if you are not too particular as to the kind of pet desired. In Caracas you chase the dealer round in an auto, unless it's market day—it was not market day, but we got our birds!

Every trip yields something, but if I should go out to come back empty handed—no cases as to to feeding, etc.; I believe it would be spoiled for me. Thus you see the fever has us and has us good

Blairstown, N.J., U.S.A.; November 12th, 1922. K. N. WOODWARD.

THE COURTSHIP OF THE CRIMSON-WING PARRAKEET.

Sir,—I have just witnessed the very peculiar methods of courtship adopted by the Crimson-wing ( ) which were described to me by the late Mr. Yealland, but which I had not seen myself.

This afternoon (January 12) I re-introduced one of my cocks to his mate, whom he had not seen for several months. Directly she was turned into the aviary he simply fell upon her, chattering angrily, drove her about and pulled out her feathers. She responded to this treatment by inviting him to pair with her, which he did in a very rough fashion, and soon afterwards calmed down. Anyone who has only had experience of other species of parrakeets would probably seperate the couple immediately after introducing them, in the belief that the cock would certainly kill the female; indeed Sir Leo Chiozza Money, who sold me my breeding pair of Crimson-wings, told me that they would not agree, probably because of their apparent unfriendliness when he had put them together for the first time.

A cock Crimson-wing at liberty, when courting a female in an aviary, swears at her and tries to attack her when he first meets her, and after that runs about on the top of the aviary, chewing up leaves, which he fetches from time to time from plants near by.

I need hardly say that I should not advise anyone to try and keep two parrakeets of any other species together when the male behaves in the remarkable fashion a Crimson-wing considers appropriate to a bridegroom; it would invite almost certain disaster, and even Crimson-wings are best watched to make sure that they are going to settle down in the end.

Rough methods of courtship are not uncommon with passerine birds, but the parrot family usually display either great affection or much courtly politeness.

(The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

STRAY NOTES.

Sir,—Till this country gets into a more contented state I fear the peaceful pursuit of aviculture cannot become normal, we are all too much occupied in making ends meet! I am different as I must keep a few birds for occupation's sake.

Last year I had nothing to write about as I suffered from the very common complaint of having too many birds per square foot of aviary space.

When I cleared about half of them out the Dufresne's, and Blue-breasted Waxbills promptly went to nest, but it was too late in the year and I had to remove them indoors before incubation was complete.

The Chestnut-breasted Finches in a separate aviary hatched out one young bird which died when about ten days old; just what occurred with two nests of Yellow-rumped Mannikins twenty years ago. They seem to thrive for about ten days and then die, though last year I gave live ants' eggs and gentles but they would not have anything to do with them.

My hen Plumbeous Quail (*Coturnix plumbeus*) laid fifty six eggs, but did not sit; a broody hatched out thirteen and then trod them all to death in three days. I hatched out others in an incubator and kept them going for a fortnight, then got ill myself—it is very hard work hunting round a town garden for ants' eggs, etc; and picking gentles out of the filth they live in is not lady's work, so the poor little quails had to be killed for lack of anyone to supply their need, and, what might have been an interesting and very pleasing episode became a sad and disappointing tragedy.

H. L. SICH.

Book Notices and Reviews.

THE AMATEUR MENAGERIE CLUB—Year Book 1922-3.

This handsome and tastefully got up volume is now getting nearer to normal bulk. Birds are not largely represented this year being confined to three articles, More Owls, by Miss E. F. Chawner; Animals and Birds in the Park of Cleres, by J. Delacour; and Random Notes, by W. J. Henning. The half-tone plates are beautifully reproduced, and all of great interest; nearly every page is adorned by delightful and apt marginal sketches by the Hon. Sec., G. Tyrwhitt-Drake. Other contents are: A Rodent Aristocrat, H. C. Brooke; Extracts from my Diary, A. Ezra; A Hairless Mouse; Sport in Thrace, I. C. Laidley; A Few Dont's on Animals, X.Y.Z.; List of Honorary Members, Rules, Objects and Advantages of the Club, and Index completes an interesting volume of 91 pages.

THE CONDOR: A Magazine of Western Ornithology; Nov.-Dec. 1922. This Californian Bi-monthly is of more than usual interest and contains:

Development of young Costa Rica Humming Birds, illus., R. C. Woods.

Evidence of Musical " Taste " in the Brown Towhee, R. Hunt.

Notes on the Yellow-billed Loon, A. M. Bailey.,

Distribution of *Molothrus ater* in California with the Description of a New Race, D. R. Dickey and A. J. Van Rossem.

From Field and Study—Editorial Notes and News—Communications—Index.

This interesting Magazine is the Organ of The Cooper Ornithological Club, Los Angeles, California.

Post Mortem Reports.

1st December, 1922, AVADAVAT (♂): Mrs. A. Chatterton, Ruislip.—Double pneumonia.

DIAMOND DOVE (♀): Mrs. A. Chatterton, Ruislip.—Double pneumonia.

The two specimens above coming from the same person, with the same disease, certainly looks like some infection about the place.—C.H.H.

C. H. HICKS.

Errata.

Page 271 last two lines *should* read.

LIST 2.

HYBRIDS: Records which require fuller details.

In the General Index, page 280, 2nd Col, owing to one word being out of alignment an unfortunate error is produced, so:

As Printed:	*As it should be*:
Bell Bird, 78, 194.	Bell Bird, 78, 194.
,, Bird Boatswain's, 86.	Bird, Boatswain's, 86.
,, Cat, 220.	,, Cat, 220.
,, Catalogue, Aust 78.	,, Catalogue, Aust. 78.
,, Compiling a List of Foreign, etc.	,, Compiling a List of Foreign, etc

Those members who retain BIRD NOTES for reference should alter their copy, *at once*, to save confusion later

Photo by J. E. de Q. Quincey

Rufous-bellied Niltava.

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BIRD NOTES.

THE
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Three Beautiful Niltavas.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The recent acquisition by the London Zoo of two Indian Flycatchers of the genus *Niltava*, which are on view in the Small Bird House, inclines me to think a few notes on these exquisite birds may not be out of place and of some interest.

These two species are:

The Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*), fairly well known to aviculturists in pre-war times, but always uncommon; and the Lesser Niltava (*N. margrigoriae*), which is very rare, and may be new to aviculture, though I rather think Mr. Alfred Ezra possessed one in pre-war times.

Rufous-bellied Niltava.—A sketchy description of its lovely plumage would be—a robin-like bird with glistening deep blue upper parts; crown of head, nape, rump, upper tails coverts, lesser wing-coverts, and a small patch on each side of neck silky cobalt-blue; whole of under surface rufous-chestnut; beak and feet black. This specimen was imported by Messrs. Gamage.

This truly is a "feathered exquisite" in every sense of the word; it is almost the last word in chaste and gorgeous colouration, and is further endowed with graceful form and charming characteristics. This is one species of the genus Niltava with which I have had personal experience; the other species are mere acquaintances of the Show-bench and other aviculturists' collections. One could easily write an eulogy of *N. sundara* pages long, but I am contenting myself largely in these terse notes with quotations from others' writings.

The late Col. Perreau wrote, in Bird Notes for 1915, pages 26-8, a most interesting account of this species as one of

the birds of the station (Bakloh, Punjab), and therefrom I am making a few extracts.

"Oates gives its range on the Himalayas as from Assam to Simla."

"Is a low bush bird, but, if disturbed, does not hesitate to fly up to a highish perch."

"I have not found its eggs, but have seen a fair number of nests with young."

"Young Niltavas are very robin-like when close at hand."

"I caught a hen Rufous-bellied Niltava in June 1907, at Kajiar, 6,000 ft., and this April (1914) I caught a magnificent cock in my compound, which is a veritable bird of paradise. I kept him for a bit, hoping to get a hen and then let him go, and he stayed close at hand for some time. This bird was very common at Darjiling, and I got to know it well for such a retired-haunt-loving bird, for they are not really shy. This and the Large Niltava (not so common a bird there) both had young in the nest late in August. . . . . It takes well to captivity, and I hope some time to try a pair in my aviaries as potential breeders."

"The hen differs from the male and is different shades of brown, with a patch of white on the fore-neck, and a brilliant Niltava patch of light blue on each side of the neck."

In Bird Notes for 1913, pages 105, 129, 165 and 201, the late Col., then Major, Perreau gives an account of an unique consignment of birds which he personally brought over, and included in it were Rufous-bellied, and Large Niltavas—I think three of each; a pair of the former passed into the possession of Mr. R. S. Q. de Quincey, and a pair of the latter went to Mr. A. Ezra.

In Bird Notes for 1914, pages 115-6, Mr. R. S. Q. de Quincey gives some interesting details of his pair of *N. sundara*, from which the following extracts are made:—

"I obtained my pair of this species in March 1913 from Maj. Perreau—so far (April 1914), they have made absolutely no attempt to go to nest."

"It is most interesting to watch them catching flies and gnats, especially in the evening. You see them sitting sleepily on a branch, then suddenly they make a dart, catch their fly or flies, and return to their original branch. You can tell the number of insects they capture by the clicking of their bills. They must have splendid eyesight, for often in the dusk you will see them literally 'dart' fifteen to twenty feet, ending up with a click and a swoop on to the nearest branch."

"They seldom came to the ground, but often sit in the shade of a rhododendron bush about a foot from the ground. There the cock would sing when the sun was shining, a pretty but rather soft little song. At such times the hen would come quite close to him and they would sit together, but otherwise they were very seldom found near each other. They each

seemed to have their own part of the aviary for catching flies, and seldom trespassed."

"They love bathing, and in summer-time the cock often had as many as six dips a day."

"They adore mealworms, but besides these I supply live ants' eggs, insectile mixture, fruit (chiefly orange), bread and milk (containing barley-water) . . . . on this they have done well. . . . . I think they are very hardy for Flycatchers, but do not like fog and cold. . . . . To my great disappointment I lost the cock in December 1913, but was fortunate enough to get another, and I hope they may do better . . . . the old cock used to bully the hen at times."

I saw these birds in their summer quarters in Mr. de Quincey's aviary, where their beauty was beyond description; fortunately it was a bright, sunny day, and we watched them for a long time—their plumage under the play of light being indescribably beautiful—their deportment while catching flies equally so. The cock was much more confiding than the hen, but neither knew fear at mealworm time.

Later they nested; a beautiful robin-like nest was constructed in a straw hat, lined with fine black rootlets. The egg was very similar to that of our Red-breast, less blotched, but with more and darker spots at the large end, almost clear at the small. Unfortunately, in ignorance of the nest, the hen was disturbed and she deserted.

I know nothing further of this pair of birds, as shortly afterwards Mr. de Quincey joined the Air Service, and most of his collection of birds had "gone West" when demobilisation took place.

Mr. H. Whistler, in Bird Notes, 1914, pages 213-4, writes of their wild life in the Murree Hill, N. W. Himalayas, where, he states, it is met with in heavy jungle, frequenting the undergrowth, perching only a foot or two above the ground, and is inclined to be shy. He describes the nest as a "cup of moss lined with black roots," placed only a few inches above the ground and well screened by a tangle of bushes. "The egg is pale reddish-buff, very faintly freckled and mottled throughout with dingy pink which is most apparent towards the larger end." Personally I have only had the male of this species; it was out of doors from mid-May to end of October, and spent the winter months caged in a slightly heated birdroom, in which their water was usually frozen over during severe periods—its

behaviour was similar to Mr. de Quincey's pair, and it was similarly fed.

Lesser Niltava (*N. macgrigoriae*). This rare species alone is worth a visit to the Zoo to see, as the following sketchy description will indicate: Upper surface brilliant purplish-blue, variegated with glistening cobalt-blue on the top of the head and sides of neck; underparts ashy-grey; ventral region white; beak and feet black. It is much smaller than *N. sundara*, but is equally robin-like and beautiful. This specimen was presented by our member Mr. E. W. Harper, who, in the course of years, has presented to the Zoo considerably over fifty (fully 80 I think) species new to its collection.

Large Niltava (*N. grandis*): I have not kept this species, but I saw the pair in Maj. Perreau's collective importation several times, and even in their travelling-cage they well merited their specific name, *grandis*, for they are large and truly beautiful birds. Mr. Alfred Ezra came to see the birds, and took this pair and others away with him.

In Bird Notes, 1914, pages 33-5, there was an article and coloured plate, by the late H. Goodchild, of this species, and I refer my readers thereto.

As, prior to dispersion, this importation was housed next door to me at Mitcham I had abundant opportunity of observing them; even within the limits of their travelling-cage, and only the day following all the hardships of the journeying by sea and land, the pleasing soft song of the male was continually heard, and I saw him many times displaying to his mate—they did well with Mr. Ezra, and the London public had several opportunities of seeing them at the large Bird Shows, where they charmed all beholders by their lovely colouration, steady and fearless demeanour, and interesting deportment, even within the limits of a show-cage.

When he had possessed the birds some ten months, Mr. Ezra wrote of them as follows:

"I have had this beautifully coloured species ten months. They "seem quite hardy and easy to keep, and I have not had any difficulty "whatever in keeping it in perfect health. They thrive on insectile "mixture, a lot of grapes and apple cut up, also half a dozen mealworms "per bird daily. The male sings all day long, and, although not a very "loud song, it is a very pleasant one. When showing off he is lovely, "drawing his neck up to its full length and opening his tail like a huge

"fan. Never miss the bath a single morning and are not happy till they "get it. I am lucky in possessing such charming pets.—A. Ezra, "B.N., 1914, pp. 33-4."

I must confess to being very envious of Mr. Ezra when he carried off his birds, but other equally rare species were coming my way.

Description: *Adult Male.*—Upper plumage dark purplish-blue; forehead, lores, cheeks and ear-coverts velvety-black; crown, patch on each side of neck, shoulders, and upper tail-coverts glistening ultramarine suffused with cobalt-blue; tail, central feathers purplish-blue, others brown on inner webs and blue on outer; beneath: chin, throat, and breast velvety-black; abdomen black, with purplish sheen; ventral region and under tail-coverts dark blackish-ashy tinged with fulvous; underside of wings and tail black; bill black; feet plumbeous-black. Total length 8¾in., tail 3¾.

Female.—Mostly olive-brown; crown and nape ashy-brown, washed with rufous on the back and rump; wings and tail dark brown, with the outer webs strongly suffused with rufous; forehead, lores, eye-region, ear-coverts, and cheeks fulvous with pale shafts; the feathers of the chin, throat and breast have also pale shafts, and the centre of abdomen is strongly suffused with ashy-brown; a bright blue patch adorns each side of the neck; beak dark brown; feet lightish brown.

Young.—"The young nestling is dark brown streaked with fulvous; wings and tail as in the female." (W. Oates—*Fauna of Brit. India*). "The young male is blackish with dark ferruginous spots, and is very Meruline in appearance." (T. C. Jerdon—*Birds of India*).

Wild Life: It is found in the Himalayas from Nepal to Assam at an altitude of from 4,000 to 7,000 ft., the Kasi and Nagra Hills, Manipur, Muleyit Mountains to Tenasserim. While having the general habits of typical flycatchers, the Large Niltava spends more time upon the ground than does the Rufous-bellied Niltava and than is usual with the typical flycatchers, and it varies its insect *menu* at certain periods with berries and seeds. According to Jerdon it is more shy and retiring than the Rufous-bellied Niltava, favouring thick shady glens in the vicinity of water, gathering much of its insect prey from the ground. The nesting period is from April to June; the nest is loosely constructed of moss and mostly placed in the cleft of a rock, or a tree trunk. The eggs are pale buff, spotted with pale red.

In conclusion I would state that if any of the three species referred to in this article should appear on the market, my readers cannot do better than close with their opportunity, as either as pairs for the aviary, or single males as cage-pets, they are unrivalled.

Indian Doves.—Doves that are not what they seem.

By D. Dewar.

[Reprinted from *The Indian Pioneer*, January 24, 1923; with our thanks and apologies to Editor and Author.—Cutting per Capt. G. E. Rattigan, F.Z.S.—Ed. "B.N."]

In this world things are often not what they seem. Charles Peace had the air of a dissenting minister, and Georges Carpentier has the spiritual look of a poet. Doves are pictures of innocence, harmlessness and guilelessness, but they possess none of these characteristics. Cunningham asserts that they are whited sepulchres of envy, hatred and malice. Whether this summing up of the turturine character be too severe or not, there is no gainsaying the fact that by their guile doves have altogether outwitted men of science. Doves are a standing gibe at the theory of natural selection. If there is anything in that theory, the dove family should have been swept off the face of the earth long ago. The bill and claws of the dove are feeble; it habitually sits on a telegraph wire or other exposed perch, thereby courting the attacks of birds of prey, it can lay only two eggs, it constructs the most ramshackle nest imaginable, which it builds in the most impossible and exposed situations, so that the white eggs can be seen from afar. Nevertheless it flourishes like the crow, the sparrow and the myna. Go where you will in India, there will you find doves in their hundreds cooing contentedly. I know of only one attribute of doves to explain their phenomenal success, and that is their doggedness. You cannot depress a dove. Destroy its nest, break its eggs, kill its young, it coos contentedly and proceeds to make another nest and lay two more eggs, and it is apparently prepared to continue the process *ad infinitum*. In my volume entitled "Birds of the Plains" I have described the doings of a pair of doves which reared a brood in the verandah of the office of the Accountant-General at Lahore after four nests containing eggs or young had been destroyed in succession.

"PIGEONS' MILK."

It may be asked, would it not be better for the dove if its clutch of eggs consisted of five or six instead of but two? This

is a legitimate question, and the answer, for obvious reasons, is in the affirmative. The reason why only two eggs are laid appears to be the peculiar manner of feeding the young. Doves go not into the highways and hedges to seek sustenance for their offspring; they feed them on a secretion from the crop. Pigeon's milk is not a myth. The pigeon family, which includes the doves, really do feed their young on a kind of milk, and apparently only sufficient of this is formed to feed adequately two young birds. This explains the two eggs, but not how or why they developed this strange habit. So far as I know, not one of the gentlemen who never tire of proclaiming the all sufficiency of natural selection to account or organic evolution has attempted to explain the origin of this phenomenon.

Anatomically there is no difference between a pigeon and a dove. The larger members of the family of the *columbidae* are termed pigeons, and the smaller ones doves, but, even so, there is no clear line drawn between the two, the smaller pigeons are no bigger than the larger doves. Doves fall into two classes—the short-tailed and the long-tailed doves. Among the former are numbered the four commonest doves of India, namely, the Spotted, the Ring, the Little Brown, and the Red Turtle Dove. Although a strong family likeness runs through these, it is quite easy to distinguish between them at a glance. The Spotted Dove (*Turtur suratensis*) is about the size of a myna. The head is reddish grey, with what may be described as a black-and-white chess board on each side of the neck. The wings are brown, heavily spotted with reddish brown. It is from these spotted wings that the bird derives its popular name. The legs are dull purple red. The call of this dove consists of four notes which may be rendered cuk-coo-coo-coo.

VARIETIES OF DOVES.

The Ring Dove (*T. risorius*) may be distinguished at a glance from the spotted species by its greyer colour and the absence of spots on the wings. The head and neck are a delicate grey, washed with lilac. Round the back of the neck runs a black collar, narrowly margined above and below with white. This bird is slightly larger than the spotted dove. Its note is monotonous and trisyllabic, with a distinct hiatus between the second and third note; it may be rendered coo-coo—coo.

The Little Brown Dove is markedly smaller than the two just described. To men of science it is known as *Turtur cambayensis*. The prevailing hue of its plumage is earthy brown, but the head is tinted red, and the breast and fore part of the wing are washed with lilac. There is, on each side of the head, a dull red patch spotted with black. The legs are crimson lake.

The call of this little dove is soft and rather pleading. It sounds something like cuk-cuk-coo-coo-coo; the last three notes following one another rapidly.

Smaller even than the little brown dove is the Red Turtle Dove (*Oenopelia tranquebarica*). This dove differs from all its relatives in that the livery of the hen differs from that of the cock. Now (peace be to the devotees of the theory of Natural Selection!) there is nothing in the nesting or other habits of this dove that explains the sexual dimorphism.

Both sexes have a black collar at the back of the neck. The plumage of the hen is mainly grey and she is often mistaken for a small ring dove. The wings of the cock are brick red; he is a most elegant little fellow. The distribution of these four doves presents a problem which no zoologist has yet solved; capricious seems the most fitting adjective to apply to it. All four species appear to undergo a certain amount of local migration just before the chief breeding season. This may be due to considerations of food supply during the nesting season. The migration is noticeable only at the limits of the range of each species. The spotted dove is a summer visitor to the Himalayas and is said to leave the vicinity of Deesa at the beginning of the hot weather.

BIRD WANDERERS.

The little brown dove is a summer visitor to the lower ranges of the Himalayas and to Afghanistan. The same is true of the ring-dove. This species is probably a summer visitor to Kashmir. I have never been there in winter, but have observed that in summer the ringed is the common dove of Srinagar. Mr. Jesse states that it deserts Lucknow in the hot weather.

The red-winged dove is a summer visitor to Sind and the Punjab. In some parts of India all four species are found, side-

by-side, in others three; in a few parts only one kind of dove occurs. In the United Provinces all four species are found, the spotted species being the commonest at Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Pilibhit, Basti, Lucknow, Ghazipur and in the Nepal Terai, Eastern Bengal and the Konkan. It is the only dove seen at Calcutta and on the West Coast south of Bombay. At Lahore and in the Deccan the spotted dove is never seen, the other three species only being found there.

At Pusa the three doves are the ring, the spotted and the red turtle-dove. On the island of Bombay the little brown species is the only dove. It is usually said that the ring-dove prefers dry localities, and the spotted, well-wooded ones. This is on the whole correct, but the theory is spoiled by the fact that the ring-dove is abundant during summer in the moist, well-wooded vale of Kashmir.

ANOTHER PUZZLE.

Even more of a puzzle is the distribution of the red turtle-dove. It is abundant in Sind and the Punjab in the hot months, but not in the cold. "It is," writes Hume, "very common in the bare, arid, treeless region that surrounds the Sambhar Lake. It is common in some dry well-cultivated districts like Etawah, where there are plenty of old mango groves. It is very common in some of the comparatively humid tracts, like Bareilly, and again in the sal jungles of the Kumaun-Bhabar and the Nepal Terai. On the other hand, over wide extents of similar country it is rarely seen. Doubtless there is something in its food or mode of life that limits its distribution, but I have never yet been able to make out what this something is." The habits of all four species of dove appear to be the same. They feed exclusively on seeds which they pick up off the ground. They are equally partial to the seeds of weeds, garden plants and cultivated crops. All build nests of the flimsiest type—mere platforms, so thin that the white eggs often show through from below. The nest is usually situated in a bush, hedge or tree, a thorny one by preference. Sometimes it is placed on or even inside a building; on rare occasions it is situated in a hole in a tree or on the ground. It is usually placed in an exposed situation, as though the owners courted notice. Doves, however, fight boldly when their nests are

attacked; they seem to regard tree-pies as their arch-enemies. In this they are justified, as the pie is an incorrigible egg-lifter.

The sitting bird, when flushed by a human being, sometimes flutters on the ground as though it had an injured wing. This is not a deliberate sham, as it takes place sometimes when the bird cannot be seen by the intruder. It is merely a series of movements caused by intense excitement or great anger.

The doves described above do not ascend the hills to any great altitude. I have never seen the red turtle-dove in the Himalayas, and I would put the limit of the little brown dove at some 3,000 feet, and that of the other two at about 6,000; thus they are not seen at the average hill-station. The common dove of the West Himalayan stations is the Indian Turtle Dove (*T. ferrago*) and that of the eastern ranges the Rufous Turtle Dove (*T. orientalis*). As these are the only doves likely to be seen at the various sanitaria, detailed description is not necessary. The Indian turtle-dove may be likened to a ring-dove in which the black half-collar is replaced by a black-and-grey chess-board on each side of the neck. The rufous turtle-dove is like a large edition of the little brown dove, having the sides of the neck grey with numerous black patches. At Quetta the European Turtle Dove (*T. communis*) may be seen; this is like a little brown dove, but it has on the neck black and white spots.

"A FEATHERED EXQUISITE."

The Bronze-winged or Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) is one of the most beautiful of the doves. The cock has a grey head with a white forehead and eyebrow. His back and wings are glistening emerald in some lights and bronze in others. The lower plumage is pale pinky brown. The middle tail feathers are dark brown, and the outer ones grey, with a black cross-bar near the tip. The bill and legs are brilliant red. The hen is nearly as gaily dressed as the cock. She differs chiefly in the colouring of the head: this is brown, except for the grey forehead and eyebrows. Its size is that of the little brown dove. Its call is a deep-toned but soft, plaintive coo. It feeds chiefly on berries and seeds. It is said to be fairly common in the forests of most parts of India, also in well wooded gardens in Calcutta. The only parts of the country

in which I have seen this feathered exquisite are the sal forests of the United Provinces. All who have shot in those forests must have noticed and admired this dove as it flits along a fire line. As it passes through alternate zones of shade and sunshine the colours of its plumage change like those in a kaleidoscope, bronze, brown, purple, green predominating in turn.

In conclusion, mention must be made of the long-tailed doves. These are not common birds, and many people spend more than twenty years in India without seeing, or, at any rate, noticing them. Their upper plumage is barred black and chestnut, hence they are called cuckoo-doves. The graduated tail, as long as the body, renders their recognition easy. A long-tailed dove having the upper plumage barred, seen in Assam and the Himalayas east of Simla, is the Bar-tailed Cuckoo-dove (*Macropygia tusalia*). There are two other species, one of which is confined to the Andamans and Nicobars; the other occurs in the forests of south Burma. The nesting habits of the bronze-winged and the cuckoo-doves resemble those of the common doves of India.

Some Finches I have kept.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(*Continued from page 17*).

The first instalment of this article was written against time, and went through without any proof revision. There are several grammatical errors which I must ask readers to overlook and correct as they read.

Erratum: On page 12, lines 29 and 30, for "fitted up seed hoppers," read *filled* up seed hoppers.

Red-headed Finch (*Amadina erythrocephala*): This species was acquired much later in my experience than the preceding species. It is a largeish, sparrow-like as to form, stoutly-built bird, yet not in any sense of ungainly contour, nor of inharmonious colouration.

This species is closely related to the Ribbon Finch

(*A. fasciata*), but, comparatively, is almost as large again, and is certainly of much more handsome appearance. It is much less freely imported than the Ribbon Finch (Cutthroat), though much better known now and more freely seen than formerly.

Description, male: Brown above, with the whole of the head red; below it is a light greyish fawn-colour, each feather being margined with ruddy-brown, giving a regular scaled appearance; a lightish fawny collar passes round the neck; ventral region whitish; beak light horn-colour; feet flesh-coloured; iris hazel-brown.

Female: Similar, but greyer in tone, markings less distinct; no red on head.

Habitat: Southern Africa.

Wild Life: Traveller-naturalists have told us but little about this species, but from what has been written we glean that the breeding season is May-June, and that the nest is formed of small sticks, fine rootlets, etc., and lined with anything woolly it can obtain and a few feathers or plant down. In the fall of the year it musters in quite large flocks in the vicinity of rivers.

Aviary Life: Its general demeanour in a mixed series in a roomy aviary is amiable, evincing a retiring disposition, loving to hide away amid the growing greenery, yet not lethargic, and having a very pleasing appearance against a setting of living green. It is quite ready to go to nest—its nidification economy being very similar to that of the well-known Cutthroat—but I should not class it as a free breeder; I have had as many as four clutches of eggs in a single season from the same pair, yet not a single fledgling hatched out, though many of the eggs were fertile, yet they were indefatigable sitters—this feature is rather a pronounced one of the species in confinement, and it was the attitude of my first pair, yet there are bright exceptions, for, in the balmy pre-war days I saw a pair in the aviaries of Capt. Bainbridge at Thorpe that were really prolific breeders for two or three seasons, hatching out and rearing two and three broods per season, the nest being placed in a hazel bush.

As already intimated my first pair did nothing save being

continually on the nest, laying numberless eggs, but hatching nothing out; then in the middle of the second year the cock died; he was in exhibition plumage and good condition generally when his corpse was picked up—on examination the only thing to account for his death was a slight cerebral hemorrhage.

The hen continued to do well and survived the winter, and the following spring she accepted the advances of an odd Cutthroat, not much more than half her size; they duly mated, nested and laid a clutch of eggs, of which in due course one hatched out—the nest was built in an enclosed box in the shelter-shed. I almost daily watched the development of this youngster and noted one peculiarity, which I do not think had been previously recorded (see a back vol. of B.N.), viz: that the interior of the mouth is luminous, having a pattern like wire-netting, with a brilliance equal to phosphorus—I received quite a shock when I first noticed it—I put my finger into the nest to ascertain if the youngster was alive, and it gaped for food, and the luminosity was quite startling when seen for the first time, and I carefully observed it on many subsequent occasions. This fledgeling was fully a month old when it left the nest, being fully feathered and able to fly well—it was a young male, as even then it showed slight indications of a red head and partial collar. Unfortunately I did not have the opportunity of seeing it after the moult, as when about two months old I found it drowned in the bath, but I still possess its skin. Since then several have bred this cross in this country and the resulting hybrids are quite handsome birds. They are about intermediate in size between the two species, though the one referred to above was as large as a red-headed finch, and they equally show the plumages of both parents. The males mostly have the head more or less red, and a partial collar across the throat of a little less brilliant crimson than that of the cutthroat, and the scaling of the underparts more obscure, in fact a commingling of the plumage markings of both parents.

I have not yet heard of these hybrids being fertile—I have had three clutches from a pair, all of which were infertile—though one would expect them to be so from closely related parents. I should expect them to be fertile if paired back to either parent species, but, so far, they have not proved to be so *inter se*.

The Red-headed Finch is worthy a place in all mixed series.

Ribbon Finch (*Amadina fasciata*): This well-known and freely imported species is more commonly known as the Cutthroat. Its characteristics and habits are so similar to the preceding species, that but little space need be occupied in describing it.

Description, Male: Above dull tawny-brown, greyer on the head; throat white, across which runs a crescentic band of rich crimson; breast and abdomen pale tawny-brown, with a patch of chestnut-brown on centre of abdomen; above and below the whole of the plumage is more or less variegated with greyish and dusky markings; tail greyish-brown; beak and feet flesh-colour.

Female: Similar in plumage to the male, but of a greyer tone, and she lacks the white throat and crimson collar of the male.

Range: Senegambia to N.E. Africa, and northwards to Masai-land.

Wild Habits: This species occupies in N.E. Africa a position similar to the House Sparrow in England. They congregate together in crowds, take dust baths in the sand, and chirp together in company as noisily as does the ubiquitous house sparrow. Books tell us very little of wild nidification habits; undoubtedly they nest in holes and also build large globular, clumsy-looking nests in trees and bushes.

Aviary Life: Many aviculturists give them a bad name for pugnacity, especially when nesting, and in some cases I know this to be the case. I have kept them on and off over a very long period and have had and bred a good many of them one time and another—I have never yet possessed a pair which made itself a nuisance in the aviary, but I do not overcrowd, and there is always an abundance of cover in my aviaries.

Of all species of birds they are the most indefatigable nesters, but they do not always sit out the incubation period, nor yet rear all the young they hatch out—personally I have had best success with this species in moderate-sized aviaries.

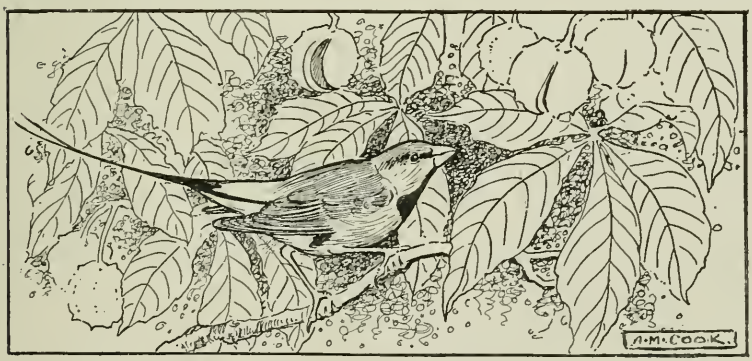
I have had many young reared on seed alone for, though insectile mixture was in the aviary, it was but seldom I saw them

at the dish. I have, however, found dried ants' cocoons a great help in the rearing of the young, as also would be live ones when these were available. When the Ribbon Finches are feeding young I scatter some of these upon the ground, and both parents are soon busy picking them up and making journeys to and from the nest—ants' cocoons appear to supply them with the needful for the successful upbringing of their young, and at the same time are apparently not too stimulating.

Of the numberless nests that have been constructed in my aviary only two of them have been built in bushes; all the others have been in boxes or husks, and mostly under cover. The two natural nests were huge, untidy, globular constructions, with an entrance hole at the front near the top. Built entirely with grass and hay, and lined internally with any feathers they could get hold of.

Even in a very large avairy I have not found it to answer to keep two pairs in the same enclosure. The dominant pair did all the nesting, the others got no chance.

The Long-tailed Grassfinch (*Poephila acuticauda*). This beautiful, though not gorgeously coloured, Australian is



also fairly well known to most aviculturists, and many of us have had the pleasure of seeing it successfully breed in our aviaries. There are two Australian finches, which one may almost describe as being as alike as two peas, viz: the Parson Finch (*P. cincta*) and the Long-tailed Grassfinch (*P. acuticauda*) —they are alike as to colour and form save in two particulars— the beak of the Parson is black, that of the Long-tail being red,

a distinction which should prevent anyone from confusing the two species. Also the tail of the Parson is square at the tip save for the extending shaft of the central feather, that of the Long-tail being tapering from the base to its finely pointed tip; thus the novice need not err.

There are also two forms of the Long-tail, viz: the red-beaked and the yellow-beaked, but that is the only noticeable distinction between the two forms. At one period we used only to get the red-beaked form imported, but now the yellow-beaks come to hand quite as freely as red-beaks.

Description: Head silver-grey; chin, throat, and chest black, in the form of a flask-shaped patch; back greyish fawn-colour, merging into brown on the wings and rump; upper tail-coverts black; underparts pale silvery rufous-brown, ventral region and under tail-coverts white; tail black, tapering and pointed; beak red; feet ruddy flesh-colour.

The sexes are alike in plumage, but in the females of the true pairs I have possessed I always fancied the black patch on her throat was a wee bit smaller than that of the male, but I cannot say whether this feature is constant or not.

Wild Life: It ranges over N. Australia and frequents open grassy plains, and constructs its nest in the long grass and also in bushes, its haunts usually not being far removed from water.

Aviary Life: These are charming birds in an aviary and, though loving seclusion, are often on view, and look lovely indeed when sitting at rest on a branch of some evergreen shrub, and what a fine setting such forms for this harmoniously coloured bird, and how strikingly they stand out against such a background. They are equally charming in deportment and habits, and above all have a strong inclination to go to nest, but alas! not always successfully. I have had many nests built in my aviaries, never one in a bush, but only on two occasions have young been fully reared, and well I remember the day when my first brood of three Long-tails made their exit from the nest, and for one whole day were visible to all and sundry as they squatted on the branches beside their parents; then, for over a week they went into seclusion, and it was only when they were yelling for food that they could be

located and occasional glimpses obtained of them. Afterwards they were to be seen regularly visiting the seed pans with their parents.

When they left the nest they were similar to their parents, but had black beaks and feet. The beaks and feet soon begin to change colour, and when about two months old these parts were red and flesh-coloured respectively. At three months they were indistinguishable from their parents.

I do not think a *fully detailed* account of the successful breeding of this species has ever appeared in BIRD NOTES, but I refrain from fuller details, as I am hoping some member will write an article thereupon.

This species crosses readily with the Parson Finch (*P. cincta*), and the resulting hybrids are about intermediate between the two species. The hybrids are fertile when paired back to either parent species and also *inter se*.

Diet: My birds have always been in a mixed series and have had access to all kinds of seeds, milk-sop, insectile mixture, insects and millet sprays. The only foods I ever saw them partake of were white millet seed, spray millet greedily, and milk-sop. Even when they were feeding young I never saw them visit the soft-food dish, but at this time they captured a good many flies, etc., and boldly contended, for such retiring birds, for mealworms when these were distributed, and, of course, I always managed that they got what they wanted.

No collection of mixed finches is complete without the Long-tail.

(*To be continued*).

My Sombre Honey-Eater
(*Myzantha obscura*).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Alas! I cannot write in the plural—wish I could, for they are beautiful birds and should not be unduly difficult to breed, but, as I write, I do not know of any specimen save the one I am writing of, having been imported alive into this country,

and even this one is a past memory. The Zoo have possessed quite a few Garrulous Honey-eaters (*Myzantha garrula*), and so have private aviculturists, but I do not think any have possessed *M. obscura;* of course, upon this point I am open to correction.

It is the Sombre, Dusky, or Obscure Miner of the colonists, but it is a Honey-Eater, and quite distinct from the Indian Mynas. The former belong to the Family *Meliphagidæ* and the latter to *F. Sturnidæ*.

Gould states that this species inhabits Swan River and the S.W. portion of Australia generally, where it beautifully represents the Garrulous Honey-eater of N.S. Wales. He quotes Gilbert as follows:—

> "It inhabits every variety of wooded situation in all parts of the "colony, and is generally met with in small families. In flying, the wings "move very rapidly, but the bird does not make progress in proportion to "the apparent exertion; at times when passing from tree to tree its flight "is graceful in the extreme. The stomach is small but tolerably muscular, "and the food, which consists of coleopterous and other insects, seeds and "berries, is procured both on the ground or among the branches. The "nest is built on an upright fork of the topmost branches of the smaller "gum-trees, and is formed of small dried sticks lined with soft grasses "and feathers. The eggs are of a rich orange-buff, obscurely spotted and "blotched with a deeper tint, particularly at the larger end. The sexes "offer but little difference in colour, but the female is somewhat smaller "in all her measurements."

The above is a terse description of the bird (almost a life history) of this species in its native haunts, and I will now proceed to describe this in captivity as exhibited to me by the one individual, prefacing this with a brief account as to how it came into my possession.

'Twas on Saturday, May 2nd, 1908, that I went to spend a week-end with our member Mr. O. Millsum, then resident at Swindon; after leaving my bag at Swindon, we entrained for Bath. At the station we were met by the late Col. (then Capt.) Perreau, and together we wended our way to the Little Zoo, to view the marvellous collection of Australian birds brought over by Messrs. Payne & Wallis. Never have I, before or since, seen such a collection of Australia's wild creatures of the air, and never will it pass from my memory—I see it all o'er again as I write.

But this is an account of the Sombre Honey-eater and I

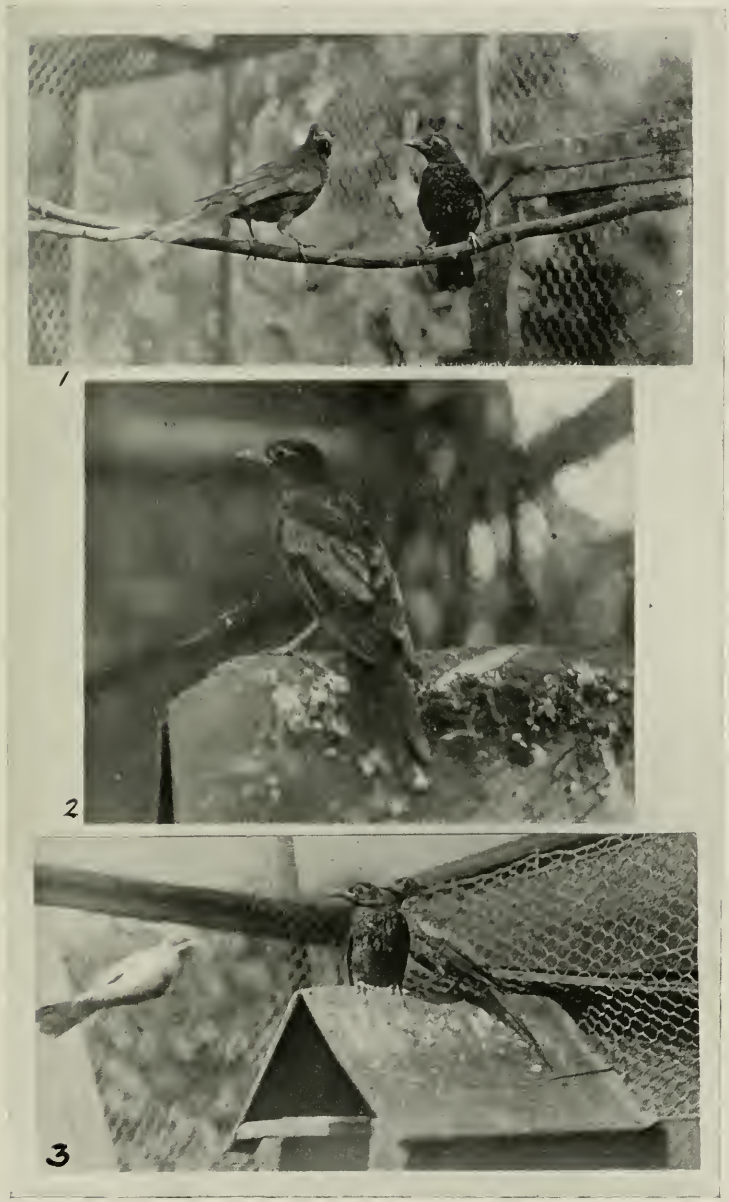


Photo E. O. Page.

This plate is reprinted for the purpose of showing an indistinct figure of the Sombre Honey-eater, which is the bottom figure on the left—the other birds are *young* Grey-winged Ouzels.

must pass on. Refusing to be cajoled by hundreds of Gouldian Finches (both Red and Black-head), all in exhibition plumage, I made arrangements for pairs of Red-naped Lorikeets, Peaceful Doves, Painted Finches (*Emblema picta*), 4 Silvery-crowned Friar-Birds, and one Sombre Honey-eater to be put on rail to me on the following Monday, and then, after dining with Capt. and Mrs. Perreau, I returned to Swindon—duly receiving the birds on the Monday evening.

This reminiscence has raised sad as well as pleasant memories for, though I had corresponded long with Capt. Perreau, this was our first meeting—we met afterwards on each succeeding leave—now he has crossed the great beyond, one of those who made the supreme sacrifice for King and Country, and not only do I anew feel the pang of the loss of a personal friend, but the loss of one who so ably assisted me for many years to fill the pages of this Journal—a valued contributor, missed still, for " the times " have provided no substitute. I am sure my readers will pardon this digression.

There was one sharp distinction (contrast) in this marvellous Australian collection, viz: while all the hard-bills were in exhibition trim, the softbills, though healthy, were in very poor feather.

When the Sombre Honey-eater arrived it was in juvenal plumage, and I put it into my outdoor birdroom, in a flight 4ft. x 2ft. x 3ft. high, and it did well, in fact it never looked back and was soon well and tightly feathered and the picture of health. In spite of its name, which is certainly a misnomer, it was a beautiful bird and an object of interest to all callers. He shared his flight with a very fine Shama, which was already in possession, and a little inclined at first to resent the intrusion of the new-comer. Naturally for some days the Shama ruled the roost, fed first and took " the pick " of everything, but this was only temporary and nearly led to disaster, for one evening on my return from business I found the Shama partially disabled; fortunately he recovered, for he was a favourite of some three years' standing—he had tried acting the master once too often, and the under-dog had turned. I found another flight, not quite so large, and put the Sombre Honey-eater into sole possession.

It is closely allied to the Bell Bird (*M. melanophrys*), but, while they possess many features in common, its deepest call-note is not anything like so sonorous as that of the Bell Bird.

Description: Above dusky-grey, with the centres of the feathers darker (brownish-grey), but the combination is very soft and the variegation not striking; rump and upper tail-coverts whitish silvery-grey; wings and tail olive-brown, with the external bases of some of the flights greenish, and tips of tail-feathers whitish-grey; forehead yellowish-olive; lores, line below the eye, and ear-coverts blackish; top and sides of head, throat and entire under-surface pearly-grey, the lighter margins of the feathers imparting a beautiful obscurely scaled appearance to these parts; the bill, which is long, curved and very wide at the base, is bright yellow: bare skin round the eyes and on each side the throat yellow; feet dull orange. Total length about 9½ inches; tail about 4 inches.

Its popular name is more or less of a misnomer and can only apply in so far that the variegation of its beautiful, soft-coloured garment is obscure. In fact it is one of the most beautiful birds I have ever possessed, and it possessed many other attractive qualities also; it soon became steady, and speedily developed a large amount of cupboard-love towards me—none the less attractive, because self-interest was so apparent. Even in the moderate dimensions of its birdroom flight its agility was surprising as it leapt and bounded amid the branches, while the manner and ease with which it captured mealworms thrown into the air, in so small a place was little short of marvellous.

Thus it passed the first summer and winter with me, and as, when spring came round, it was in splendid form and plumage, I turned it into a small aviary 12ft. square, among parrakeets, budgerigars, grey-winged ouzels, cardinals, doves, etc. Here its behaviour was exemplary, and I saw it under an entirely different aspect—charming and attractive as it had been in the small indoor (unheated) flight, it was far more so in the larger space; its attractive features were intensified, expanding as it were in the increased space, and altogether he was a source of unending interest and pleasure, but I only enjoyed him for a short time under this aspect—more of this anon.

If he was agile in the small flight, his agility was simply marvellous in the larger outdoor one; he caught mealworms and other insects on the wing as agilely as do swallows, and his

flight was practically as graceful as theirs. He seemed to enjoy the company of the other birds, remaining on the best of terms with them, yet, strange to say, though solitary he never made a pal nor fraternised with any of them—at the same time he never interfered with them in any way, nor they with him—several broods of young birds, including a brood of Grey-winged Ouzels, were successfully reared during this time, but he never seemed even interested in the nesting operations of his fellow captives, and, strange to say, I never saw him enter a nest-box.

He was a " dandy " of the first water, taking a thorough bath several times a day, and was always in a perfectly " spick and span " condition. His method of taking a bath was similar to that of the Pekin Robin—he would stand quite a while on the edge of the bath considering the matter, then in he would suddenly plunge and then run through the bath, entirely under water and he had to duck his head to accomplish this, and out upon the other side, repeating this operation several times, then on to a branch for quite a lengthy grooming up.

He was not at all fastidious in his diet, taking liberally of the soft food, to which was added most days a liberal proportion of boiled potato, and, when available, carrot also. As part of his natural diet is the nectar of flowers, he was also supplied with bread and milk, and took same with gusto. Mealworms or any insect he delighted to have tossed in the air and thoroughly enjoyed catching them so long as I cared to keep on the game—needless to say I enjoyed the game also, so the Obscure Honey-eater fared well. He was also very greedy after fruit, no soft ripe variety came amiss—all the same he was no special trouble to cater for, as all the above items were included in the aviary " Bill of Fare."

Honey-eaters, of which there are a good number, are delightful birds (some of the genera are more delicate and need more warmth than does *M. obscura*), make delightful cage or aviary birds, but I expect it will be the Garrulous Honey-eater that will come to hand; however, save for slightly different plumage, they are similar in habits and characteristics, and require exactly the same treatment.

My bird did not live his life with me, for the following summer my aviaries had to be dismantled, owing to a change of

residence, and part of my collection had to be sold, including the Honey-eater. He passed into the hands of our member Mr. E. J. Brook, having quite an adventurous journey from London to Ecclefechan, being, if I remember rightly, four or five days on the way—the railways surpassed themselves—yet arriving in decent form, but hungry—I guess it was a plentiful supply of milk-sop and fruit and a largish parrot cage wrapped round with sacking that saved his life.

I hope, sometime, again to possess a pair of some species of *Myzantha*.

Feeding and Keeping Hardbills.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

This article is being penned to meet an expressed need by some of the members, but it is impossible to comply *wholly* with the expressed need, viz: that articles under "Hardbills" and "Softbills" should appear in Bird Notes, and not only include housing, feeding, etc., but also supply a rough description of each species and special individual treatment—such is impossible even if any individual could be found to undertake such a task *con amore*, such a serial would run for years; besides, each volume of Bird Notes *is full of the information asked for*—again, think of the dreary repetition, as one wearily reads (leaving the poor author out of the question) through page after page of, say, for instance WEAVERS, the number of species is almost legion, and the feeding and treatment for all nearly identical, and, to repeat same *ad nauseum* species by species would, I opine, very soon bring about the demise of the Club Journal.

Give a glance at the index of any volume, and you'll get an idea of the number of species dealt with therein, and even if full comprehensive detail of the confinement economy of each species is not given in full, usually again and again lists of birds kept together in any enclosure with the foods supplied are to be found, and members (readers) must think for themselves sufficiently to apply the information given to meet their own need. I admit that the bulk of F.B.C. membership keep their birds in aviaries, large or small, and consequently the

articles of birds kept under such conditions predominate; at the same time, not as Editor, but as a private member, I deny that the minority (those who keep birds in cages) are shut out—if those who keep birds in cages will not write articles and give their experiences, who is to blame? Most certainly neither the Editor nor other F.B.C. officials. How often have we reminded our members that there is a *Correspondence* section in our Journal, and invited them to discuss methods of feeding, treatment in all its details, and to make known their difficulties or lack of knowledge therein. What response has there been? I do not attempt any answer, but leave it to each issue of BIRD NOTES for the past few years to supply same—*verb sap.*

The Writer (Editor) is an aviarist and very seldom keeps birds in cages; true, by force of circumstances he must have so kept sufficient to know how it should be done, but that is certainly not the practical experience of one who must perforce keep all his birds in cages! Again, how deadly monotonous BIRD NOTES *would* soon become even if he were willing and had the time to do the whole—surely this issue itself must illustrate this most forcibly—again I say *verb sap.*

With this foreword I will now try to help my fellow-members as far as I can, but certainly in this article I can only deal with them in groups, merely notifying a group that requires any special treatment.

Under Hardbills comes the bulk of Fringilline and Ploceine species, as under:—

Ploceidae: Waxbills, Weavers, Whydahs, Mannikins and Grassfinches. Under WAXBILLS, besides those definitely called Waxbills, one includes such species as the Avadavats, Cordon Bleu, Lavender Finch, etc. Under GRASSFINCHES AND MANNIKINS, besides those so called we include: Bib, Chestnut-breasted, Double-banded, Dwarf, Gouldian, Cherry, Parrot, Parson, Pectoral, Red-headed, Ribbon (Cutthroat), Ruficauda, Zebra, Bicheno's, Nutmeg, Pied-Grass, Sharp-tailed, Spice, and Striated Finches, also, Silverbills (Indian and African), Bengalese, Diamond and Java Sparrows, and the Pin-tailed Nonpareil.

Fringillidae: Buntings, Grosbeaks, Siskins and Finches. To make all clear to the beginner, I will name some individual species as representatives of this group: Nonpareil, Indigo,

Yellow, Cirl and other buntings; Cardinals in variety; Alario, Pileated, Cuban, Olive, Red-crested, Guttural, Lined, Reddish, Saffron, White-throated, and Singing Finches, Cape Canary, Serins in variety (the whole of the genus *Serinus*), Seed-eaters, Seed-Finches, Chaffinch; all (English and Foreign) Bullfinches, Linnets, Greenfinches, and Siskins; Twites, Redpolls, Song-Sparrows, etc.

I think the above lists should make clear, even to the Novice, the various groups included in these two main families of HARDBILLS. Further, I hope the various *menus* given under the respective headings for mixed collections, aviaries, and cages will enable the veriest *tyro* to keep them successfully, and also enable them to avoid needless loss when making a start, or when receiving a new species.

MENU *for aviary, in which a mixed collection*, PLOCEIDAE AND FRINGILLIDAE, *is kept*: First,—It is best to have sufficient seed-hoppers to enable one to supply each kind of seed separately, as this is a much less wasteful method than supplying all in one general mixture. Again it is important when buying seed to get only the best and to reject any sample that is dusty or has the slightest musty odour. Further, I have found that for foreign species a smallish canary seed is far better than that sold as *giant* canary seed; but what you get must be plump, clean and sweet.

To meet the needs of both these FAMILIES of hardbills, both English and Foreign species, you must supply the following:—

SEEDS: The following I advise to be supplied separately, viz: canary, white millet, Indian millet, and millet sprays. *As mixtures* (1) 2 parts each sunflower and safflower, and 1 part hemp. (2) Wild seed mixture as bought. (3) 2 parts linseed and 1 part maw seed. NOTE: *All mixtures should be compounded by measure*, not by weight.

GREENFOOD: For foreign species nothing surpasses flowering and seeding grass, which by residents in the country (home and southern counties at any rate) is obtainable all the year round: in frosty weather it can be gathered and kept indoors (stems or roots in water) for six to twelve hours before it is supplied to the birds. General garden weeds, also in the flowering

and seeding stage, can be supplied and if not much of same be eaten they are picked over, and many a half ripe seed or minute insect is obtained to the well being of your birds.

Water: Clean soft-water is the best, and if your service water supply is very hard, draw for your birds from the hot-water tap, as much of the hardness will have been eliminated in the process of heating. Water vessels must be kept clean and quite free from greeny fungoid slime.

I will deal later with soft-foods (insectile mixtures) in a chapter on Breeding Finches.

(To be continued).

Correspondence.

EAST AFRICAN WEAVERS.

Sir,—I was very much interested in Mr. Young's notes on these birds in last month's B.N., and especially in the excellent photographs. I do not however, agree that the birds described were either the Crimson-crowned or Orange Weavers. The nests in the photos are suspended, and, in my experience as an aviculturist, none of the Weavers of the genus *Pyromelana* do this, their nests being woven into two or three thick stems of grass or reeds, which act as supports, and when they do build in bushes two or three twigs are used in the same way. Moreover the nests are either spherical or purse-shaped, with the entrance hole at one side. Those in the photos are, as far as it is possible to see, snail-shaped with the entrance hole at the bottom. Another point is the colour of the eggs. Those of both *P. flammiceps* and *P. franciscana* are blue, occasionally spotted with black or brown.

In my opinion the nests shown are those of one of the *Hyphantorninæ* weavers, probably *H. cabanisi*. These birds lay white eggs. A photo of a number of these nests built in my aviaries appeared in a recent issue of B.N. Had Mr. Young seen either the Crimson-crowned or Orange Weaver, he would surely have described them as scarlet and black.

Wm. SHORE BAILY.

P.S.—It is only the *Hyphantornine* weavers that build in communities.

I admit the force of Mr. Shore Baily's criticism both as regards nest formation and colour of eggs, and considered these points when I penned the Editorial note in question, the main point which actuated my decision being colour, and I cannot call to mind any *Hyphantornine* weaver that would "fill the bill" in this respect, while both the Crimson-crowned and Orange Weavers do. Birds, when seen in nature, against the sky, from a distance appear a different colour from what they actually are—if the dominant colours were flame-crimson, or flame-orange then the bird would appear as if wholly of that colour—I have noticed this feature several times when at a distance from my aviaries.

As regards nest formation, unless we had photos of natural nests in situ to guide us, we could not tell the difference. In 1921 two Crimson-crowned Weavers were successfully reared in my aviary, and the nest was a suspended one, in the hollow centre of a larg golden privet bush, somewhat as the rough

Nests of Pyromelana flammiceps
1. Breeding nest. 2. Nest of unmated ♂.

diagram herewith. I did not see their eggs, but half a shell found under the nest was only faintly tinted with blue, but this may be accounted for by the colour fading from the action of weather while lying on the ground beneath the nest—the half shell found was the narrow (pointed) end and it was unspotted. My experience with birds in captivity is that nest formation is modified by environment and that they speedily adapt themselves to altered conditions, though in the main the principal features of the wild nest are retained. I have had many suspended *Pyromelana* nests built in my aviary, not suspended by a short rope as with the *Hyphantornine* group, but hanging underneath a swaying lateral branch, the branch passing through the top of the nest.

I admit that the naming of birds under the conditions of Mr. C. H. Young's notes is rather a matter of conjecture; still, even now, there appear to me to be only three species to fit the colour description he gives, viz: Crimson-crowned, Orange, and Grenadier, and in these three there is the difficulty of egg colouration. As to nest formation my avicultural experience teaches me, that this might easily be accounted for by the varying conditions of freedom and captivity, or perhaps it would be better to write by the character of the living growth they had to use as nest sites. Further, I may say that the bulk of the *Pyromelana* nests built in my aviary have been hanging on the underside of lateral branches, as described over, and those from which young have emerged have been more or less double-chambered, the nest chamber being distinct—those of the unmated being an ovate sphere

with the entrance hole at the front near to the bottom of the nest, the latter varies to some extent, but is invariably placed in the lower half of sphere. It would appear that these weavers are some species of *Hyphantornis*, but, at the same time, I do not know of any such species that corresponds with Mr. Young's colour description.

WESLEY T. PAGE.

A LIVING JEWEL.

Sir,—I think the following, copied from the *Daily Mail*, February 21, 1923, might interest many readers of B.N.

(Miss) OLIVE BLACKBURN.

"COURTING DISPLAY OF BIRD OF PARADISE: A most "lovely sight was described at last night's scientific meeting of the "London Zoological Society—the sweethearting of the Magnificent Bird "of Paradise. At the present moment one of these living jewels is making "love to his mate in the Small Bird House, and Mr. Seth Smith, F.Z.S., "told the Fellows about the amazing changes which now transfigure the "male bird. In his ordinary attire the bird is a vivid little person "with a green breast, orange and crimson back and wing feathers, and "two glittering green 'wires' in his tail, which curve round in a double "sweep."

"To woo his lady love he strikes two poses. In the first he puffs "out his breast feathers into a great dark green heart-shaped shield. "By some curious trick he moves these feathers to another angle, when "their dark green turns to a lustrous purple. His head is just seen "above the shield, and as he opens and shuts his beak one glimpses a "flash of apple-green inside the mouth."

"In attitude No. 2 he appears to be a different bird altogether. He "doubles his height; the breast feathers flatten out and disclose a "scintillating blue-green pattern like an inverted "T" made of spangles. "At the same moment an unsuspected ruff-like decoration flies into "position round his tiny head. This is made up of minute feathers, "sparkling with the texture of pale primrose spun-glass. Then the little "beauty sways from side to side on legs of turquoise-blue."

"And all this to win the heart of a dowdy little lady who looks "like a shabby crow.—L.C.M."

[Such courting displays are common to all the Birds of Paradise, but in some species they are more striking and extraordinary than in others. In *The Field* for February 1st, Mr. Seth Smith gives notes of the Courting Display of the Magnificent Bird of Paradise (*Diphyllodes magnifica hunsteini*), illustrating them with three drawings, showing the male in the two poses which are assumed during the display. Few aviculturists would, we think, describe the female as a "dowdy little lady who looks like a shabby crow." Sombre she certainly looks beside her gorgeously apparalled mate, but seen apart from, or examined by his side, she has a quiet, neat beauty of her own, and is neither of dowdy nor shabby appearance. In Bird Notes for 1910 there was an article on this species, illustrated with a coloured plate by the late H. Goodchild.—Ed. B.N.]

Mr. Seth Smith describes the display, *The Field*, Feb. 1st, as follows:

"The first stage of the display, which, however, is sometimes "omitted. . . . . The bird utters a series of notes resembling *qua*, "*qua*, *qua*, bends slightly forward and erects the sides of the pectoral "shield, fluffing out the feathers and then slightly contracting them, "during which the tints change from green to purple. Meanwhile the "mouth is continually being opened and shut, exhibiting its apple-green "lining. It is noticeable that at this stage the central band of "iridescent feathers is invisible, being entirely hidden by the fluffy green "plumes surrounding it, and the same applies to the metallic terminal "band to the shield. Neither, at this stage is the hood erected."

"Then as in a flash, a very remarkable transformation takes place. "The body is erected to its utmost; the pectoral shield becomes a smooth, "broad ribbon of shining green, its sides being parallel, and its surface "like burnished metal; the central band of metallic feathers and the "terminal band become conspicuous, while the hood, which before lay "hidden on the back, is erected above the head, with its edges meeting "the upper edges of the green pectoral shield. . . . D. Seth Smith."

Post Mortem Reports.

January 2nd. Malachite Sunbird (♂): Hon. Mrs. Bourke, 75 Gloucester Place, W.—Double pneumonia.

January 1st. Blue Budgerigar (♀): Hon. Mrs. Bourke.—Fatty degeneration of liver, with a terminal congestion of lungs.

January 7th. Tanager: H. G. the Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke.—Advice and sex given by post.

January 8th.—Passerine Parrakeet: W. R. H. Bearby, West Hartlepool.—Answered by post.

January 17th. Bluebird: H. G. the Duchess of Wellington.—Answered by post.

January 18th. Tanager: H. G. the Duchess of Wellington.—Answered by post.

February 18th. Nonpareil Bunting (♂), Indigo Bunting (♀): H. Whitley, Paignton, S. Devon.—Both birds were suffering from an acute enteritis; all other organs were normal.

February 27th. Palm Tanager: H. Whitley, S Devon.—Enteritis; all other organs normal.

C. H. HICKS.

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S

Kurrichane Thrush.

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BIRD NOTES.

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Some African Thrushes.

By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

The Turdidae have one great drawback from an aviculturist's point of view—their extreme quarrelsomeness with each other, and with other members of the family. I have not noticed them interfere with Finches and similar small birds, but they will not hesitate to tackle doves, pigeons, and, at times, even such large birds as pheasants. Nevertheless, as they are such handsome birds, one is always inclined to keep a pair in an aviary. More than one pair, even if of different species, in the same aviary will not do, as they would fight to the death. Strange to say, the hens are quite as pugnacious as the cocks, and, as very often they are actually bigger than their would-be husbands, they not seldom prove themselves the masters. On one occasion I had a male Olivaceous Thrush actually killed in this way. Once the breeding season is well under way they agree a little better, but even then quarrels are by no means infrequent. Up to the present the Thrushes most often kept by our members have come either from India or America, and I know of no case where an African Thrush has been bred here; but provided that true pairs can be obtained, there should be no difficulty, as they are all easy to cater for, and are usually quite tame and confiding in captivity. The great difficulty with all the South African Thrushes is to get true pairs, as the sexes are alike.

For years now I have been trying to breed the Olivaceous Thrush (*Turdus olivaceus*), and I think that my lack of success is due to my having had no hens. At the present moment I have four of these Thrushes, the last one being purchased a month ago at Gamage's, where the experts assured me that this one really was a hen; however, last night I heard it answering

a cock in a neighbouring aviary. Of course, the hens may sing for all I know to the contrary, but I imagine this is unlikely. The song is rather a sweet one, but not very long sustained, and pitched in a much lower tone than that of our Song Thrush (*T. musicus*). This bird is common throughout South Africa, where it is found in the kloofs and valleys, and similar places

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Olivaceous Thrush.

where there is cover. When disturbed it flies off with a startled cry like that of our blackbird. Its nest also is similar. Eggs four in number, greenish blue, mottled with reddish-brown spots. In captivity it is practically omnivorous, partaking freely of bread and milk, biscuit meal, seed, fruit and insects, as offered.

Description: Above, dark slate colour; throat white, streaked with black; breast dusky-olive, shading into orange-rufous on the abdomen; sides and flanks, under tail-coverts white, streaked with brown; bill, upper mandible dusky; lower, yellow; feet and legs yellowish. Size 9.5ins.

Turdus libonianus The Kurrichane Thrush (see frontispiece) takes the place of *T. olivaceus* in the northern portion of South Africa. It is a smaller bird, is somewhat similar, and has been occasionally offered by dealers as the female of the preceding species. I have had four or five specimens, and have at the moment three. They do not differ

in any way, except that one appears to be smaller than the other two. I have never heard this bird sing, so it is possible that my birds may be all hens. Like the Olivaceous Thrush they are easy to cater for; moreover, they are hardy and they seem to suffer no inconvenience from our changeable weather, being apparently indifferent to cold. They spend a good deal of time on the ground, as do all the African Thrushes, and generally roost low down in a laurel. Their nest is usually found in a bush. Eggs 3 or 4, bluish-white, sparsely spotted with red, principally at the larger end.

Description: Above slate grey with a brownish tinge; the primaries and tail feathers somewhat darker. Lores, eyebrows, and cheeks whitish; chin white. Upper throat buff, with a line of black streaks on either side; lower throat buff, shading into chestnut on the lower breast, sides, and abdomen; vent and under tail-coverts white; bill, legs ,and feet yellow. Size 8.5ins.

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Dusky Thrush.

Turdus cabanisi. The Dusky Thrush is a much rarer bird. Mine was sold to me as a hen Olivaceous, but from its demeanour I believe it to be a cock. This thrush is found

north of the Orange River, and probably ranges up to British East Africa.

Description: Upper parts: throat, upper breast, and flanks dark slatey-brown; chin, and upper throat pale grey, streaked with brown; abdomen dull orange and chestnut; bill, feet, and legs yellowish. Size 9.5ins. Its habits are exactly the same as those of the last two species.

Turdus litsitsirupa. The Ground-scraper Thrush, so named from its habit of scratching amongst dead leaves in search of insects, is in colour much more like our English Thrushes. It is about the size of the Redwing, but in colour

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Ground-scraper Thrush.

and shape is more like the Mistle-Thrush. According to Stark it is a South African species, but it has evidently a much wider range than this, as I have recently received some clutches of eggs taken in Northern Uganda. This bird is rarely imported, and my pair is the only one I have seen. As previously mention in BIRD NOTES, they nested here last Spring. The nest

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Mistle Thrush.

was like a Blackbird's; only one egg was laid when the cock was killed by a weasel; otherwise I think I should have bred them. Anderson says:—

> "This thrush is pretty abundant in Damara and Great Namaqualand, "especially the former; it also occurs in the Lake-regions. It is partially "migratory, only a few remaining in Damaraland throughout the year. "It lives chiefly on insects, for which it searches at the roots of trees "amongst low bushes, old leaves and decayed wood. It scratches "somewhat after the manner of a Fowl, and is thence called by the "Bechuanas the 'Ground Scraper;' it also runs with great celerity. It "lives singly or in pairs, and occasionally perches on the topmost branch "of some lofty tree. It utters a plaintive half-song, half-call, just as if "it were troubled with a bad cold. This species breeds about Objimbinque, "and I took a nest containing three young on the 29th October. It was "built on a branch about 10ft. from the ground, and was composed entirely "of grass, the interior being lined with down and feathers."

Description.—Forehead and crown ash-brown, fading into a lighter brown on the nape and mantle, still lighter on the lower back and upper tail coverts; tail-feathers brown, the tips paler. Lores and cheeks white, behind the eye a yellowish white spot, surrounded by black, a malar stripe formed by a row of black spots; chin, throat, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white, thickly spotted with dark brown or black tear-shaped spots. Upper mandible brown, lower yellow. Feet and legs yellowish. Size 8.25ins.

My Birds.

By Captain H. S. Stokes, F.Z.S.

The keeping of foreign birds was started here just a year ago, with a modest total of three pairs of Budgerigars; but the hobby has proved such an interesting and absorbing one that the birds now number well over a hundred. And, although from our little experience there is no reason to burst into print on the subject, yet our excuse must be the Editor's constant clamour for copy, and the hope of spurring to greater enthusiasm other aviculturist members junior even to ourselves.

In the first place it must be confessed that the primary object is not breeding, but the keeping of a collection for their

beauty and general interest, so that the aviaries are pretty full—too much so for breeding.

The two main aviaries are brick sheds, 12ft. x 9ft. x 11ft. high, well lighted and built for the purpose, each with a planted garden flight about 20ft. x 16ft., and 7 to 10ft high. These sheds are connected by a covered-in boiler house and food room, with a glazed door into either aviary, so that no escapes are possible, and each shed is heated by a radiator to about 60°.

No. 1 aviary contains about 50 birds; the usual mixture of small finches, waxbills, doves and quails. Among the most interesting and charming of these we find the Grassfinches, Long-tailed, Rufous-tailed, Masked and Parson, also the Cuban and Quail Finches.

The Rufous-tailed (*Bathilda ruficauda*) are amusing with their absurd love dance with a grass stalk carefully held at the extreme end, and we notice that when flying up to a branch to display, they flap as loudly with their wings as a good-sized dove. Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*) appeal by their tiny size, cheery chirp and quaint black and yellow faces.

Other favourites in this aviary include a pair of Nonpareil Buntings (*Cyanospiza ciris*), some cock Queen Whydahs (*Vidua regia*), and two cocks of the South African or Eastern variety of the Paradise Whydah (*Steganura paradisea*). These seem to be larger and finer birds, and with broader tails than the ordinary Senegal type.

All these birds have been let out into the garden flight every day this winter, when the temperature has been not less than 45°, and have done well; the total losses since December have been six only, and this in spite of the cold damp climate of the Trent Valley, and the fact that the flights of necessity face west.

No. 2 aviary, more recently constructed, contains a group of weavers for colour in the summer: Grenadier, Half-masked, Crimson-crowned, and Orange; a Virginian Cardinal, Java and Diamond Sparrows, Blue-winged Lovebirds, and a pair of Isabelline Doves. The rest of the inmates are softbills, collected gradually, with the help of a kind friend in London. It was a long time before we could steel ourselves to the prospect of daily mixing messy soft-food, and chopping up the fruit these

birds demand, but the trouble entailed is not nearly so great as it seemed, and is a hundredfold repaid by the beauty, intelligence and interest of the birds, far in advance in our opinion of all the hardbills. They include a Shama, glorious of song and tame, as apparently most Shamas are, to the extent of appearing entirely without fear or nerves; a pair of Red-eared Bulbuls, Blue Tanagers, a Superb Tanager, Orange-headed Ground Thrush, Silver-eared Mesia—a charming bird—two Pekin Robins, most amusing and impertinent, and a pair of Lilac-crowned Fruit-Pigeons of great beauty.

As regards soft-food we supply daily a mixture bought ready for use from a member, Mr. Silver, or alternately our own composition of three parts crushed Osborne biscuit, to one each of ants' eggs and dried flies. This is slightly moistened and mixed, either with chopped chickweed, which all the birds seem to like better than lettuce, or grated carrot, boiled potato or, once a week, fresh hard-boiled egg. Mealworms are given at the rate of about five per bird daily, and the birds encouraged to fly on to the mealworm box held out to them or to catch them in the air.

The fruit consists of apple, orange, white grapes cut up, and currants soaked for 12 hours. Bananas are given whole, and also chopped up for the benefit of the Fruit-Pigeons, in order that they may swallow the pieces comfortably without clogging up their bills by digging lumps out for themselves. But we notice an ugly rush for this chopped banana, and if the Fruit-Pigeons are late for it they make up with currants and grated carrot. All this sounds vastly more elaborate and troublesome than it really is, the washing of the food pans and the preparation of the food taking only about half an hour each morning.

The remainder of the collection consists of parrakeets; Budgerigars, Cockateels, Red-rumps, Peach-faced and Madagascar Lovebirds. These all spend the winter in flight cages in a cool conservatory, and go out into a thatched wooden summerhouse, divided into three cages, each with a small garden flight, in the spring.

A pair of Orange-flanks and four Tui Parrakeets are at present in cages. Last, but not least, there is a delightful and

absolutely tame and gentle pair of Senegal Parrots, who live in the house and have the whole establishment to wait on and amuse them.

The desire for more and more birds ever grows, and we hope to add aviaries as time goes on, but space is limited, and the temptation of building anything which would not be an added beauty to a garden of natural charm and full of precious plants has to be sternly resisted.

Australian Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

There is no merit attached to the writer for these notes, save that they interested him to visualise vivid pictures of the wild life of some of the birds which occupy or used to occupy his aviaries—the notes themselves are merely extracts and the pen of another writer—they came to him thuswise. The writer has only had the fag of compilation, a not uninteresting task.

A friend recently sent me a book, *Wanderings in the Queensland Bush*, by W. Lavallin Puxley, and I was so fascinated by these vivid and terse, if incomplete, pictures of Queensland birds, that I felt I must pass them on.

In the first chapter entitled *The Morning Land*, I came across the following:

" Everywhere grew varieties of gums, and here and there we passed ' dense growths called ' scrub ' by the residents, and golden wattles in " endless variety were scenting the air. ' Strange bright birds ' were " flying overhead with calls and songs unknown to me, and I could hear " in the distance the most beautiful sounds of the Queensland bush—the " morning carol of the ' magpies ' (Magpie Lark. W.T.P.). . . . . " That first afternoon I counted over twenty varieties of eucalyptus, many " of which were coming into flower, and everywhere the pretty grey and ' yellow ' soldier-birds ' flew around me, scolding me and each other in " their quarrelsome way. . . . . And even that first day I noticed " the great number of Laughing Jackasses, or Kookaburras, as they are " always called, and that they always seemed to produce their wild laugh " whenever anyone is in a difficulty, like some malignant imp rejoicing over one's troubles. I heard it that afternoon when I had sat down " to rest upon an ant-heap which I had taken for a heap of soil which had ' been sifted. I was idly passing the tiny stones through my fingers ' when I noticed a number of the ' beef ants ' as they are called, rushing

"to repair the shingling of their roof which I had displaced, and, rising "hurriedly, I heard overhead the loud laugh of two kookaburras, who "had no doubt been watching me carefully. . . . . In the deeper "shade lovely little Blue Wrens flew about, with their long tails twisting "about—often right over their heads—and red and black ones also. And "the Willie Wagtails, which are really flycatchers, were flying about "wagging their tails sideways, not up and down as their English "namesakes do. Suddenly I heard a strange sound like the cracking "of a whip. I did not then know of the Stock-bird (Coachman or "Coach-whip Bird.—W.T.P.), and supposed it to be some human being, "but could not understand what he was doing in that solitary place; but "later on I heard several more, and found the noise to proceed from a "little bird coloured something like our tits. It is said that it is only "the males which make the crack, but at any rate it is strange how loud a "sound can proceed from such a small throat. Once, later on, in a deep "ravine in the mountains, I heard the same sounds again, made by several "birds cracking against each other, and that time the noise was most "striking in volume. It is one of the most distinctive bird-notes I have "heard. . . . . I slept heavily that first night, till roused at dawn by "the heavenly music of the carol of the magpies in the valley below."

From Chapter V., *The Glasshouse Mountains*, the following extracts proved of interest to me:

"And I found throughout Australia that few of the flowers have "any scent, or if they have, it is an unpleasant one; indeed sometimes it "scents the air most unpleasantly. The wattles are exceptions to the "rule. The Parrots which were commonest in my swamp were the "glorious King Lories (King Parrakeet.—W.T.P.), and the innumerable "Blue Mountain Parrots (*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae*.—W.T.P.), or "Brush-tongued Lories, with coats of blue and red with yellow markings, "and they made the air gay by their brilliancy and vast numbers. They "move northwards in dense flocks to breed. . . . . In the neighbour- "hood of the settlements there were numberless birds, and every day I "discovered new varieties, for Australia is rich in bird-life. I saw "numbers of pigeons, flock and bronze-wings, and beautiful little wren- "warblers of blue and red colouring. There was one kind called fire-tail, "which makes a nest like a stocking hanging by the toe, the eggs being "placed in the heel of the stocking. Then there is the Yellow-tailed Tit, "one of which built near the house a nest of two storeys, though what "the upper storey is built for no one knows, as it never seems to be used. "Willie Wagtails, too, are very common there, and build lovely cup-nests "of mud of various shapes. Mud is not much used by Australian "birds, I find, except those of the swallow family and the magpie lark. "This, by the way, is neither a magpie nor a lark, but a wood-shrike, "though its exact position amongst Australian birds is not yet settled."

"Perhaps of all the birds I saw in Australia I love best the Superb "Warbler, with his brilliant coat of blue and black velvet. One male "usually has four or five plain-coloured mates."

Chapter VI., *On the Seashore*, contains the following notes on birds met with:

"Numbers of mutton-birds flew towards their nesting holes on the "mainland, and honey-birds were everywhere, and various parrots were "feeding upon some flowering trees. Hour after hour passed, until I "noticed suddenly that the sun was setting, so with great reluctance I "turned back to the landing-place, noticing that, except those of the "wild birds, no footsteps were to be seen but my own. Some of these "lagoons are full of pelicans, snipe, and cranes, and black swans are "found in numbers near the coast, while curlews wail at nightfall from "the flats near the shore, and great numbers of wild flowers are here also."

I found in Chapter VII., *Some Pests*, that some birds are so classed, as indicated in the following extract:

"It seems a shame to class cockatoos amongst the 'pests,' but "unfortunately, from a farmer's point of view, this must be done. The "beautiful Lemon-crested Cockatoo exists in such huge flocks that when a "number of these birds settle upon a 'cultivation' they work great "havoc there. But from that of a stranger—especially one who loves "birds—it is a beautiful sight to see the cockatoos flying from spike to "spike, balancing their glittering white bodies and raising and lowering "their crests in the hot sunshine."

"The Black Cockatoo also loves grain, though he is not so "numerous; and it is interesting to watch a flock of them fly over, for "they fly heavily and look like huge black squares against the sky; while "the Blood-stained Cockatoo—another variety—is a curious and interesting "bird. The tree which bears their name, the cockatoo tree, with its "spikes of red and white flowers, exactly reproduces the shapes of their "beautiful heads, just as the Strelitzia does that of the crested crane "in Africa."

Chapter X., *Life on a Station*, is full of reference to bird life, and my extracts must be rather full:

"The very first long day I spent in the bush which surrounded the "station where I was staying I counted no less than twenty-three new "species of birds—that is, twenty-three I had never seen before in their "wild state—and I spent an intensely interesting day watching them. "Amongst those I always loved watching were the Laughing Jackasses, "or Kookaburras, also called the bushman's clock, and very few bushmen "will kill or injure a kookaburra if they can help it. I found that there "is a variety of this interesting bird in North Queensland bluer in tint "than anywhere else, and I never tired of seeing them and watching their "ways, though they often laughed at me at awkward moments. It "was curious to see them fly down like a flash, dig their stout bills into "the ground for some grub, with their tails thrown up jauntily at the "same instant, and then fly away to repeat the movement again and "again. I was told of one which had been accidentally killed which "contained two pounds of meat, which it had stolen, and which had

" been set as bait for dingoes, and just before death, with the meat still
' undigested, it was looking about for more. These birds of course
" are giant kingfishers. I found another kingfisher, a beautiful azure
" one (*A. azurea*), flying about the creek near the station, and settling on
" the ti-trees, with their lovely, red ' bottle-brush ' flowers, like a piece
" of sky settled there. Yellow and black honeyeaters, with their mottled
" bodies, were pecking at the flowers, and everywhere were the Diamond
" Sparrows, with their coats of grey and red, with red bills for a finish
" and marbled wings; these were also feeding on the flowers. Lovely
" little Emu-wrens, with their tails like aigrettes, were flyng in the
" bush, and Thick-heads or Mutton Birds were common also. By the
" way, it is a pity that there are so many birds with the same popular
" names; there are several mutton birds, for instance, and this causes
" much confusion to a stranger. One is a petrel and another is the
" wattle-bird. a bird with a wattle of naked red flesh hanging on the side
" of the neck, which gives it one of its names. And the Apostle Birds,
" with their mournful whistle, flew in their usual numbers—for they have
' received their name from the fact that they usually fly in flocks of about
" twelve birds. Crows also gave a mournful cry, like a wailing child,
" and at first I was alarmed by the call, thinking it really was a child in
" pain."

" It is astonishing what a number of Australian birds are of a
" grey tint combined with beautifully contrasted colours. One of the
" most beautiful is the Galah (Roseate Cockatoo.—W.T.P.), a very
" common species of grey bird, with a rose-pink breast, and these are
" most friendly, inquisitive creatuers, and come quite near, uttering their
" shrill cry and raising and lowering their pretty crests all the time.
" To these engaging qualities he is good to eat and easy to catch. . . .
" Bower-birds are to be found in Queensland, but not so numerously as
' in the other states. One of the loveliest is the Regent Bird, of
" yellow-orange and black velvet. These birds are most playful, and love
" a game of hide and seek in their bower; and this is also true of the
" Lyre-bird, which is found on the southern border of the state, though
" more common in New South Wales. . . . . Another bird, famous
' for its beautiful nest, is the Scrub Warbler, which builds a hanging nest,
" and these nests assume a great variety of shapes; they all contain holes
" at the side, but some are like cups and some like bags, and some have
" the hole at the side like an afterthought; these birds are still common in
" the scrub on the southern borders of Australia."

" One more lovely bird is the Spotted Bower-bird (*C. maculata*), with
" its wonderful magenta crest. It makes its bower of the bones of small
" animals and any bright material found in or near houses, for it will
" venture there in search of anything brightly coloured. Glass it
" particularly loves, and bright beads or stones of any kind; but I find it
" loves the open spaces where it can see all round it, not choosing to build
" anywhere within the shade of trees."

" One day a turkey drive was organised at the station with the
' object of obtaining turkeys for food. . . . . Two were secured,

"and the party went on. . . . . There were several of the amazing "nests about, and these alone were worth going far to see. These "turkeys, or megapodes, build gigantic nests like mounds, making them "of grass and leaves, which they collect by means of kicking them "backwards until they have made a hillock as large as a good-sized room. "Not a leaf or blade of grass is to be found anywhere within a distance "of at least twenty feet of the nest, which contains many cartloads of "material, and in this gigantic mound many turkeys lay their eggs in "clutches close to each other, each mother bird, it would seem, keeping "to her own part of the mound. Presently the whole heap of green "material will begin to heat, and the eggs are hatched in a natural "incubator. The young turkeys are able to look after themselves from "birth. As soon as they are born they peer cautiously out of the mound "and then run off into the bush, where they begin scratching for worms "and grubs at once."

"Thousands of cockatoos flew overhead. I saw one dead tallow-"wood tree literally covered with the white cockatoos with lemon crests, "which are 'noxious pests' in Queensland, and another beautiful cockatoo, "called 'gang-gang,' of grey and white with a brilliant crimson crest. "But indeed I could not tell of a quarter of the birds I noticed in "these scrubs."

This book, *Wanderings in the Queensland Bush*, by W. L. Puxley, publishers George Allen & Unwin, 10s. 6d. net, is fascinating reading, though, at present, I have given it but a hurried and perfunctory perusal. The whole of the Australian fauna is described in the same popular and interesting style; the descriptive references to the florafauna interested me greatly, though this is, of course, not for Bird Notes, though they make the setting of the avifauna and enable one more fully to visualise the environment and wild life of some of the occupants of our aviaries more clearly.

In conclusion I must tender apologies and thanks to the Author and publishers for liberties taken, and, I hope the sale of some copies of this most interesting book may result therefrom, though my main object has been to interest and place informative field notes before my readers.

My Birds—In Aviaries and at Liberty.

By Edward J. Boosey.

I was somewhat chary at first of writing this article about my birds, because they are, at the moment, so few in number.

Nevertheless, to me at least they are an unfailing source of interest.

My small bird aviary contains several pairs of Zebra Finches, a cock Diamond Sparrow, Ruficauda Finches, Orange-breasted Waxbills, Avadavats, and Diamond Doves. I had bad luck with the Diamond Sparrows, as the hen died of egg-binding a short time ago. I had had them for eighteen months when she died, and, though they had played at nesting continually, it was not until quite recently that they really gave their minds to it, and then, of course, the hen died of this arch-enemy of those who would breed Australian finches.

I lost a hen Ruficauda from the same complaint last autumn. The cock constructed a most artistic little domed nest of raffia in a privet bush.

I find Ruficaudas most willing to breed, and I've no doubt they would be successful even in a small aviary if the hens were not so subject to egg-binding. I am disposing of all my small birds except the remaining pair of Ruficaudas, the Waxbills and the Avadavats, which I shall try at liberty again this summer. They were all loose last year from July until the end of September, and all stayed well, except four pairs of Common Waxbills, which were unsteady from the moment they were let out, and soon departed.

I hope to breed from the Ruficaudas at liberty this year.

A pair of Red-rumps (*Psephotus haematonotus*) have an aviary to themselves, and are the most assiduous breeders and model parents. The cock was bred by Captain Reeve. They have young in the nest as I write (February 28th).

In another aviary are a pair (?) of Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*). I have had them now for eighteen months; but carefully as I have watched them, I do not yet know for certain whether they are a pair or not. As far as I can see, they are both identically alike in every detail. Is there any distinction between the sexes?

Indoors, in cages, are a Senegal Parrot and a Golden-fronted Malabar Green Bulbul. The latter is an extremely persistent, and at times agreeable songster, though sometimes he indulges in a harsh, starling-like chatter, which is most unpleasant. In fact his song is an odd medley of the notes of a Nightingale, a Blackbird and a Starling. He is fed on malted milk, honey, and sponge cake, with ripe fruit daily, and any

odd spiders I happen to come across. He is always full of life and quite immaculate. That, I think, completes the list of birds in aviaries and cages.

At liberty at present are a pair of Alexandrine Parrakeets (*Palaeornis alexandri*), and a cock Brown's Parrakeet (*Platycercus browni*) mated with a hen Rosella (*P. eximius*).

Lord Tavistock very kindly gave me the cock Brown's and the cock Alexandrine, both of which had been loose with him for some time, so that they were well-established "stayers" when they came to me. The Brown's and the Rosella have now been at liberty with me for sixteen weeks, and the Alexandrines for three weeks. The Brown's has a very beautiful combination of colours in his plumage, of palest yellow, black, apricot and sapphire-blue. He is a slightly smaller bird than the Rosella, and is a very peppery-tempered little fellow, as I've no doubt some of the sparrows in the garden could testify! since he takes active steps to drive away any who interfere with him while he is feeding. Strange to say, though both these birds were extremely wild and nervous in an aviary, they are not nearly so wild or nervous now that they have complete freedom.

They are very swift flyers, and have a curious way of flying along at a great pace, until they are just above the tree in which they intend to settle, when they suddenly dive down into it. They spend much of their time on the ground in a vegetable garden, which contains a good deal of the short grass which is nearly always in seed, of which they consume large quantities.

The Alexandrines are always in evidence, and if you cannot see them sometimes, you can always hear them! The cock is quite the most affectionate bird I have ever had, and follows me about wherever I go, flying from tree to tree above my head. And though I value his affection very highly, I don't like his way of showing it, which consists of dropping choice mouthfuls of half-digested food down my neck! He comes every morning, as soon as it is light, to my bedroom window, and sometimes ventures in; but I have to turn him out again, as he is rather fond of testing the sharpness of his beak on my wardrobe and picture frames, and anyone who has kept an Alexandrine will know that his beak is no mean instrument.

and makes short work of chewing up wood. His wife spends most of her time hollowing out a large, old walnut tree, and climbing inside the old trunk, chattering and screeching to herself. As far as I can see, much as she likes her husband to fly about with, and to amuse herself with generally, she won't allow him inside her walnut tree. It's her preserve, and he seems to know it. They are powerful and graceful on the wing. I feed these birds, and the other two parrakeets at liberty, in a special feeding box, which I designed and had made by a local carpenter. It works so that ordinarily, the mouth of the box is closed by a hinged and weighted platform, and can only be opened by a fairly heavy bird standing on this platform. The result is that the parrakeets can open it at will, and the sparrows cannot; and this, besides being a great saving in the seed-bill, also assures their being able to get food at all times, instead of, perhaps, going and finding the sparrows have finished it all. Of course, this box would be useless for small Lovebirds and Budgerigars, as they would not be heavy enough to open it.

Long-tailed Grassfinches

(P. acuticanda).

By E. S. Sprankling.

As our Editor appears to wish for an account of the breeding of Long-tails I will give my experiences of these birds in 1912—1913.

I commenced with three yellow-beaked birds, two cocks and one hen, purchasing them in February 1912, and, turning them into a covered brick-built aviary, they quickly made themselves comfortable in a box some 15ins. long, filled with hay. One pair kept at one end, and the odd male at the other end; this odd bird was occasionally chased about by one of the others, who evidently was under the impression that "Two's company; three's a crowd."

When April came—the 14th of this month to be precise—I allowed the birds to take themselves into a larger wild-planted outdoor flight adjoining. In a 4½in. wall of this flight were

three holes, about 3ins. square and 6ins. apart and about 6ft. from the ground. At the back of these holes a box divided into three compartments was fixed and all partly filled with hay. I had also arranged at the back of each compartment a sliding glass panel for observation purposes.

By the 16th all three birds took possession of one of these openings, etc., the odd bird always slipping in last. Additional green grasses were soon added, and I fondly imagined that there would soon be eggs. The three birds were often squatting on the ground, the hen usually in the centre, but the differences are so slight in the sexes that they have to be keenly observed to know them apart.

Day by day, week by week, time passed by, and "nothing doing," until on May 24th they again appeared to be in earnest and commenced adding to the hay in the adjoining box portion, the male birds plucking a lot of growing grasses, both long and short pieces, and also seeding ends, until they had stuffed the box portion so full that my observation panel was completely blocked; then, not content with filling this box, they started on the third compartment, and soon put my "eyesight out" in this direction.

The birds continued like this up to the first week in September, in and out of one or the other of these three holes, until I despaired of any breeding by these birds during this season, although latterly I noted that the odd cock was not allowed near the hen by the paired bird, who drove him away at every opportunity.

On September 1st no egg was in either of the boxes, but on the 2nd my patience was rewarded, for an egg was laid in the first portion of the box to be taken possession of by the birds and "what an egg," white certainly, but abnormal in shape, it being long and parallel looking; however, I hoped the next would be of a better shape. September 4th: egg still in nest, but no other. September 6th: egg had disappeared, but on looking round the aviary I discovered that a fairly neat, domed nest, nearly complete, had been built in a thicket of one of the limbs of an apple tree, about 4ft. from the ground, composed externally of green grasses, and not easily noticeable in the thicket of green apple leaves. Keeping this nest under close

observation, I saw that this nest also belonged to the paired Longtails, but having been so sly and quiet in their actions, I had not noticed them building. It was really too late now for outside success in breeding, but as the weather was mild and the birds appeared to be in earnest, I removed the odd male back to the inner adjoining aviary and left the pair to themselves outside. I saw copulation take place on several occasions, but no real progress was made, except to line the interior of the nest with feathers which the male carried up at every opportunity, until October 1st, when an egg was laid, this time of normal shape.

About this time both birds (especially the hen) were calling incessantly, their note being not unlike the ordinary call-note of a Bullfinch; the birds were also very restless.

On October 6th, the egg appeared to have been forsaken so I placed it in my collection and "booked it" as another disappointment.

To my surprise, however, on October 16th I found another egg in the nest, and on the 18th two eggs, and then the hen commenced sitting, and she sat closely until November 3rd, when one of the eggs hatched. I noticed that while the hen was sitting, the cock drove all the other birds away from the vicinity of the nest, but did not notice whether the male took any share in brooding the eggs, but I particularly noticed that, after the egg had hatched, the male also brooded the youngster.

On November 7th the youngster appeared to be thriving; its skin was of a dark tone, and I noted that the other egg was clear. From the action of the parent birds I could tell that the wants of the youngster was being attended to by them both, but the nest was never left without one or the other of the old birds being in. They were both sly and suspicious in their actions.

On the 13th I heard hoarse but lusty sounds while parents fed the youngster, and also observed that the old birds often keenly searched over the ground for food. Up to now, and from the time the birds commenced sitting, they were not easily disturbed; even when I stepped in front of the nest they would sit tightly.

November 16th: Both parents are now occasionally

out of the nest together, but not for long. A large feather in front of the entrance hole prevented any one from looking into the nest, but putting it on one side with a pencil I noted that the young bird was feathering the quills, just bursting at their tips, giving it a streaked greyish appearance. The beak is black with whitish fleshy edges to the back. Tail quite short and a little white shows on the rump. The age of the young bird is 13 days to date.

November 19th: Youngster still lusty, and the parents still stay in the nest some time with it. The feathering of the bird is more even looking and browner in tone, and no quills were observed.

November 24th: Young Longtail still calls loudly while being fed in the nest and also when old birds are near and in sight. Both parents are often near the nest together, probably trying to induce the youngster to venture out, but so far this has been a failure. The old birds have a peculiar habit of extending their black bib feathers and bobbing up and down and uttering a self-satisfied chuckle whenever they come in contact with each other. They spend a lot of time searching the ground, and they still keep the other birds away from the vicinity of the nest by darting rapidly at the intruder. The birds, after bathing, which they do regularly, take rapid flights round the aviary. Weather now cold, but dry.

November 25th: Morning dry, but rough wind; afternoon showery, rough, and very wet. I give this because it bears upon the result.

November 26th: Last night was dry, but now again wet and very stormy gales all day. The young bird kept in its nest, and the old birds stay in with it a long time.

November 27th: A very cold, dull, damp morning with white frost overnight. The young bird flew out of nest this morning, but it was unfortunately dead by 1 p.m., the exposure and cold, without doubt, killing it. The bird was fully feathered and about the size of a young Zebra Finch; it was marked as in the parents and similar in colour, but the whole general tone was browner, the black and white markings not being so conspicuous. Beak short and black with a whitish edge and bead at back of gape; tail about ¾in. long; legs yellowish flesh-colour,

With the advent of the cold and wet conditions latterly prevailing, all natural shelter such as leaves, etc., had blown off, so that the nest had been much exposed, and although by means of glass I had kept off much of the rain I found it very wet. Thus ended my first and last experience of breeding Longtails in 1912.

The parent birds weathered the winter and looked healthy and in fine feather, but on March 23rd, 1913 (Easter Sunday), the male bird died suddenly, thus leaving me with the old hen and the odd male previously mentioned to carry on with, and which ultimately brought success.

In 1913 three clutches of eggs were laid, the Longtails commencing nesting operations in April, and by the 29th had started to sit on three eggs. The nest this time was in one of the box compartments already mentioned. Again I noted the parents caught a lot of insects for feeding the young when eggs hatched, also that both parents brooded young again. This nest of young lived to be about 16 days old, and then died owing to the indisposition of the mother bird.

Later in June another lot of eggs (five) were laid, again in a box, and young were hatched, but again at about 15 days the parents deserted the young, and they went the way of the great majority.

During the incubation of the eggs I now noted that the male also took his share in these duties, as well as in the brooding of the young. The latter, when hatched, were supplied with a plentiful supply of fresh ant cocoons by their parents. I put these in the aviary with the earth as well, by the shovelful, as I found that they were excellent for young Zebras and for the Waxbills in the aviary, and also provided exercise for the birds in scratching, etc., to prevent them getting too fat.

The third and last nest of the season hatched in August, and was again in one of the box compartments. On the morning of August 22nd a young Longtail flew out of the nest—the first that had reached this stage of maturity this season; it was a fine bird, quite as large as an adult Zebra Finch, the tail being at least one inch in length, black and pointed; beak black with whitish edges to gape, etc.; eyes black; legs flesh-colour; plumage marked and coloured as in the adults,

but a little " fluff " was still on some of its feathers, principally on its head, which gave it a babyish appearance. It flew strongly and avoided obstacles, and was piloted about by its parents, who appeared very proud and excited. The youngster's call-note is more plaintive in tone, but similar to the call-note of a Common Bullfinch. The bird returned to its nest again during the afternoon.

August 23rd: Two young out flying this morning, and still others being fed in the nest.

August 24th: Three young out this morning and returned to nest early in the afternoon.

August 25th: Five young came out this morning, all strong on the wing, and went back again as before described. Saw one of these youngsters drink on the 26th, when they were all out again.

August 28th: Four young Longtails feeding on ground with parents, the parents also feeding them at intervals. The young are growing well and their tails appear to be 1½ to 2ins. in length. I had observed yesterday that a nest was being built in a small spruce tree. I now noted that it belonged to the old Longtails; it was built of hay and not yet properly domed.

August 29th: This evening all the young roosted in the nest in the spruce tree with parents. On this day I took an infertile egg from the old nest, thus noting that six eggs had been the clutch of the third and successful nest.

I will now bring these notes to an end with a brief summary of the principal events, etc.

(1) *Nesting Site.* Either in holes or boxes or in natural domed nests in bushes or trees, composed of grasses lined with feathers.

(2) *Eggs.* White, 3 to 6 in the clutch, taking about 15 days to hatch from the time the birds commence to sit.

(3) *Out of Nest.* The young come out of nest at about 3 weeks old, but return during the afternoon to roost, for some time.

(4) *Food.* Insects are necessary to rear the young successfully, together with their ordinary diet. The young feed and drink for themselves within a week of leaving the nest, but are still fed by their parents up to about seven weeks old. The

young hold their heads down while being fed, in a similar manner to the Zebra Finches.

(5) *Colour.* The beak and legs begin changing in colour (the beak from the root) at about 5 weeks old, and the young are practically indistinguishable from parents from 11 to 12 weeks old.

I trust these notes will not be too boring for readers; they are practically all diary notes taken day by day.

Feeding and Keeping Hardbills.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(*Continued from page 45*).

In this instalment I purpose dealing with Breeding Finches, leaving to the next instalment the subject of Keeping Hardbills in Cages. I will merely add to last instalment a few words re *Ploceine* finches as separate from the *Fringilline* group.

PLOCEIDAE: Where this group—weavers, whydahs, and waxbills—are given an aviary to themselves then millet (white millet, Indian millet, and millet sprays) will form the main seed *menu*. Canary seed can be offered, some species will eat it freely, and it certainly is a wholesome seed; however, waxbills, especially the smaller species, take very little of it, practically none from choice, and for such as the following:

Cordon Bleus	Golden-breasted Waxbills
Fire Finches	Orange-cheeked Waxbills
Avadavats	Black-faced Waxbills
Green Avadavats	Dufresne's Waxbills

Indian millet and millet sprays will form the main part of their dietary. The seed heads and flower spikes of grasses are also an important part of the *menu*. For weaver and whydahs, subject to a seasonal change of plumage, a fair supply of live insects or their larvae is very important, both at the period of the moult and when the seasonal change (coming into colour) of plumage is taking place.

BREEDING FINCHES: The following notes cover both the *Ploceine* and *Fringilline groups*.

One of the main factors to successful breeding is intelligent observation; by this I do not mean a regular inspection of nest interiors—far from it—for that only too often means that the birds forsake the nest and find fresh quarters, but rather the careful noting of demeanour and deportment of the respective pairs towards each other and their respective mates—for, no matter how carefully the collection has been chosen, or how well they have agreed together in the past, each succeeding season brings the problem as to how the pairs will behave towards their neighbours—I will anticipate: "but I consulted an experienced aviculturist as to what species I could keep together," true, but no aviculturist living could be more definite than to say, *such have agreed together in my aviary or known to have done so in others*, for there is strong individuality in birds, not only with different species of the same family, but with respective pairs of the same species, thus one never can be sure, *it is the unexpected that happens;* hostilities will take place and very often it is a pair with *good amiable reputation* that are the cause of a breach of the peace; therefore the need for persistent *observations* will be at once apparent, for the results of the season's breeding may be easily nullified by the retention of an interfering, curious, or malicious pair of birds—by intelligence I mean: the observation that will meet anything fresh, especially the untoward, with an eternal WHY? And, moreover, not be satisfied till he or she has found an answer. Such observation will bear fruit in other directions, too, notably in an accumulation of interesting and important data, as well as the well-ordered aviary.

I wish to be quite clear on one point—the above must not be interpreted to mean that those aviculturists who must be at the office or in the workshop the greater part of each day, cannot enjoy successful breeding results—some of the most successful aviculturists are to be found among such, for all I have indicated can be accomplished during the morning and evening attendance on the birds.

The culprit, or culprits, that cause a breach of the peace must be arrested and removed; also, the unfit must be caught up and put into the nursing ward, and remain there till they are in perfect health again, for the unfit can never increase the healthy bird population.

At the same time will be gathered together a wealth of information upon song, courting, period of incubation, nest formation, how young are reared, fed, etc., making the successful keeping of birds a source of unending interest and pleasure. Such an one will make failures the stepping stone to future success, for he, or she, will learn wherein they have failed, and provide the remedy in the future.

A first principle of breeding any species of bird is, that only birds that are perfectly fit, both as to plumage and health, should be put up for breeding—this applies both to attempts at breeding in aviaries and cages.

If space permits the flights should be planted sufficiently with trees and bushes to supply not only perching accommodation, but cover also, yet must be sufficiently open to leave space for flight exercise and to freely admit air and light to pass to the ground, otherwise the place would soon become dank and unwholesome—the aim being to induce the construction of natural nests in tree or bush, but a goodly number of artificial nest receptacles should be provided, these principally dispersed about the shelter and covered portion of flight, with the entrance-holes always facing the light. Such forms as:

Coco-nut husks	Rustic log-nests
Coco-nut shell nests	Travelling cages.
Rush bottle-shaped nests	Square boxes, top hinged, round
Hartz travelling cages	hole at one side for entrance.
Old straw hats	Straw covers from bottles.

can all be used with advantage, and there should be many more than there are pairs of birds, so as to allow ample choice, and thus obviate, as far as possible, pairs quarrelling for the same nest—though two pairs fighting for the same nest cannot be entirely prevented, it is a wise precaution to take.

In planting a breeding flight, when choosing the bushes, etc., one must keep in view the object, and also English weather—while a wet season, providing it is not cold as well, is usually the most prolific in breeding results, yet some discrimination must be used as to what natural cover is provided. There are two points to keep before one, viz:

(1) Such foliage as will afford some protection against deluging rains.

(2) Forked branches for nesting sites.

It will at once be seen that evergreens should form the paramount portion of the cover provided. The following are all good—the local nurseryman would indicate which were best suited for any given locality.

Common Laurel (broad leaved).	Willow
Aucuba	Hazel
Portugal Laurel	Elder
Cypress (various)	Roses
Berberis	Fruit trees (any kind)
Firs	Ash
Euonymus	Quick Thorn
Holly	Birch
Privet (Green and Golden)	Oak

The frequent use of the pruning knife keeps growth within bounds, and produces stubby forked nesting sites.

CLIMBERS.

Polygonum	Ivy
Wild Clematis	Hops
Rambler Roses	Honeysuckle
Everlasting Peas	Virginian Creeper

All these are good for training round interior standards, framework, and front of shelter shed.

GROUND HERBAGE.

Grasses in variety	Mallow
Canary seed	Dandelion
Dock	Garden Marigold
Willow herb	Groundsel

FOOD: This, of course, is an important item. It goes without saying that all the usual items of the *menu* must be kept up, but in the breeding season this alone is not sufficient, for the simple reason that at this period there is scarcely a single species that, in a state of nature, does not largely rear its progeny on insects—larvae, pupae, and imagos—the obvious deduction, then, is the aviculturist who best meets this need is the successful one, and experience has proved this to be the case. But again, intelligence must be used; live food must be given regularly and plentifully, and so distributed that birds will have to forage for it as much as when in a state of nature—this is easy with live food in the pupal stage, not quite so simple with the

crawlers and creepers, however; many of these can be placed in boxes filled with loose mould with the insects lightly buried in same, and an odd one or two scattered on the top—two or three of such boxes placed about the aviary would secure an even and fairly continuous distribution of the live food, and having, as it were, to work for their living, checks over stimulation. Then arises the question as to kind of insects to use—the following two lists enable a varied supply to be kept up.

To be commercially obtained: Mealworms, gentles, live ants' "eggs," and wasp grubs.

To be gathered from garden or countryside: Beetles, spiders, earwigs, smooth caterpillars, flies, plant hoppers, blight (aphis), and most plant pests.

Insectile Mixture (Softfood): This should be supplied all the year round for such as care to take it, but it is especially important during the breeding season—a business man cannot be on hand to supply live insects every two or three hours, and the insectile mixture fills the gap and prevents disaster. The varieties of soft food mixtures are legion and many of them are good, but if one makes one's own mixture, its ingredients are known, and it is much cheaper—the simpler its composition the better. The base of the mixture must be some kind of biscuit meal that is crushed to the size of white millet seed. Either of the following are excellent: Spratt's Cod-liver oil and Cage-bird Food—Dog Biscuit (any good make). Get 7 lbs. of either one or the other (or ring the changes on the two); 1 lb. Best ants' eggs, and 2 lbs. Dried flies. Compound by measure, not by weight. Take, say three teacupsful of biscuit meal to one each of dried flies and ants' eggs, and well mix—it can be mixed in bulk and will keep indefinitely if stored in a dry place. For use, take sufficient for the day's supply, and make crumbly moist with *boiling* water, and keep it covered up till cool.

Milk Sop: This also is excellent for such species as will take it, and especially helpful during the breeding season.

Now I expect all this will seem very formidable to my readers—I have risked verbosity so as to be more sure of making all clear—it is more formidable in print than in practice. At the time when I was tied to an office all day I have mixed the food and done the round of three outdoor aviaries and

four indoor enclosures in less than three quarters of an hour.

Greenfood: This is an important item, too, during the breeding season, and can easily be an evening task to the busy man. Bunches of seeding and flowering grass, chickweed, shepherd's purse, hard heads, dandelion (flowers and leaves), clover flowers, etc., all in the seeding and flowering stage, must be tied in bunches and hung about the aviary.

Many will state that they have reared many young hardbills on seed alone. True, I have done so myself, experimentally, but, as already stated, in a natural state all species, British and foreign, rear their young almost entirely on insects, and we shall be wise to plan our methods on the same lines. Some hardbills are reared on seed and greenfood alone without any supply of live insects, but *how many have been lost for the lack of the latter?*

In conclusion, no hard and fast lines can be laid down—all general principles must be thoughtfully applied, and modified to meet the requirements of the surroundings and occupants of any given aviary.

(To be continued).

Report.—Zoological Society of London, 1922.

It will be seen that, though there have been several notable successes during the year, the adverse season affected results in the Society's Gardens similarly to those of private aviculturists.

Though most of these events have been previously noted in our Journal, to many of our readers the gross annual results will be helpful.

Birds Bred During 1922.

July 16. 2 White-cheeked Bulbuls (*Otocompsa leucogenys*), one reared.

July 2. 2 Zebra Finches (*Tæniopygia castanotis*), reared.

Oct. 1. 2 Black-winged Grackles (*Graculipica melanoptera*), one reared.

May 19. 2 Leadbeater's Cockatoos (*Cacatua leadbeateri*), reared.

Feb. to Nov. 44 Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), all reared.
June 27. 2 Sacred Ibises (*Ibis æthiopica*), one died Oct. 11th, 1922; one reared.
Oct. 2. 1 Sacred Ibis (*Ibis æthiopica*), died Oct. 4th, 1922.
July 21. 9 Egyptian Geese (*Alopochen ægyptiacus*), all reared
June 3. 9 Carolina Ducks (*Lampronessa sponsa*), all reared.
July 10. 3 Carolina Ducks (*Lampronessa sponsa*), all reared.
June 3. 1 Chilian Teal (*Nettium flavirostre*), reared.
Sep. 17. 6 Gambel's Quails (*Lophortyx gambeli*), four reared.
Aug.31. 3 Common Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*), reared.
July 19. 15 Gold Pheasants (*Chrysolophus pictus*), reared.
July 19. 9 Amherst's Pheasants (*Chrysolophus amherstiæ*), reared.
July 19. 2 Hybrid Siamese and Silver Pheasants (*Lophura diardi* × *Gennæus nycthemerus*), reared.
July 19. 2 Manchurian Crossoptilons (*Crossoptilon manchuricum*), one reared.
Aug.31. 4 Hybrid Burmese and Black-winged Peafowl (*Pavo muticus* × *P. nigripennis*), all reared.
July 2. 2 Talpacoti Ground-Doves (*Chamæpelia talpacoti*), reared.
July 2. 3 Dwarf Turtle Doves (*Onopelia humilis*), reared.
Sep. 17. 2 Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), reared.

List of Species New to the Collection Exhibited During 1922.

Saltator atricollis, Vieill. Black-throated Saltator.
Hab. Bahia, Brazil.

Uroloncha leucogastra, Blyth. White-bellied Finch.
Hab. Trengann, Malay Peninsula.

Buarremon brunneinucha Lafr. Chestnut-capped Buarremon.
Hab. S. Mexico.

Fringillaria tahapisi Smith. Rock Bunting.
Hab. S. Africa.

Cassicus uropygialis Lafr. Colombian Red-rumped Hangnest.
Hab. Colombia.

Thalurania furcata Gmelin. Cayenne Wood Humming-bird.
Hab. French Guiana,

Crtholophus leucolophus Sharpe. White-crested Hornbill.
Hab. W. Africa.

Brotogerys jugularis apurensis Delacour. Apure Tovi Parrakeet
Hab. Apure, Venezuela.

Scops bakkamœna lettia Hodgs. Nepal Scops Owl.
Hab. Darjeeling.

Cerchneis tinnunculus saturatus Blyth. Indian Kestrel.
Hab. Darjeeling.

Mesophoyx intermedia Wagler. Wagler's Egret.
Hab. Malacca.

Corsachius melanolophus Raffl. Black-crested Bittern.
Hab. Kedah, Malay Peninsula.

Ptilopus fasciatus Peale. Rose-crowned Fruit-Pigeon.
Hab. Samoa Islands.

Columba grisea Bp. Grey Pigeon.
Hab. Borneo.

Synœcus plumbeus Salvad. Plumbeous Quail.
Hab. S.E. New Guinea.

Antigone sharpei Blanf. Sharpe's Crane.
Hab. Kedah, Malay Peninsula.

Cursorius gallicus Gm. Cream-coloured Courser.
Hab. Egypt.

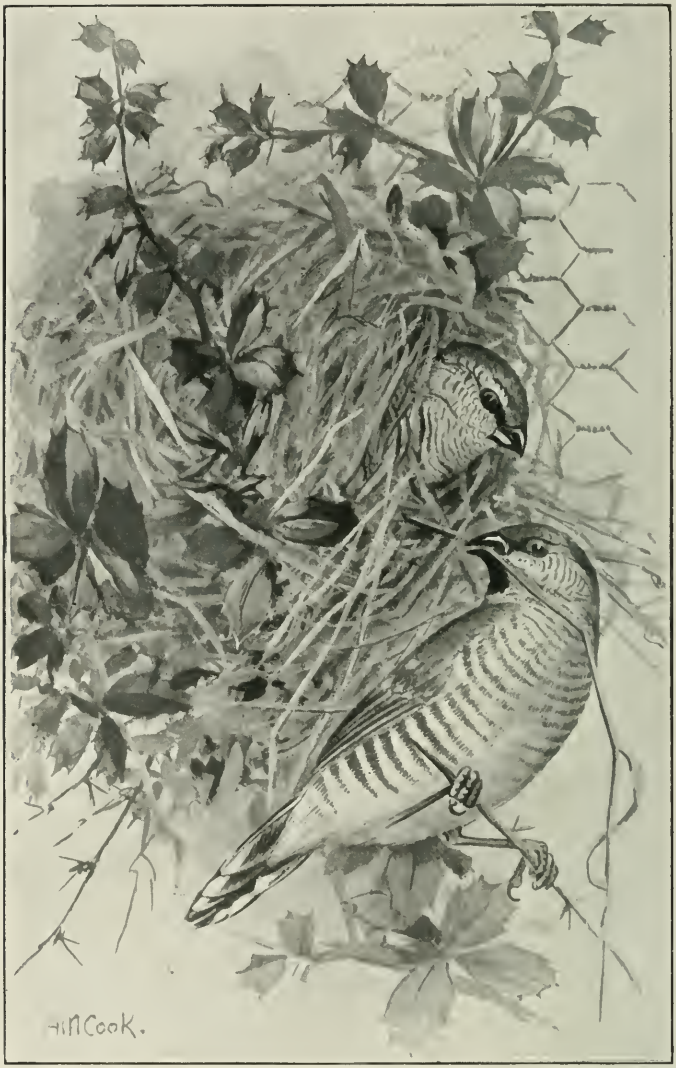
Of the latter list, *Fringilla tahapisi* has been known to private aviculturists for some years, and *Synœcus plumbeus* was successfully bred by Mr. W. Shore Baily last season.

Correspondence.

Sir,—Re the feeding of Avadavats and Golden-breasted Waxbills; I have found the greatest difficulty in getting them to eat anything in the green-food way. I keep mine in cages during the winter, in an unheated room; they have done very well, and I have at last found some green-food which they will eat—that is the stringy roots of watercress; they ignore the green leaves. Also they will peck at dandelion leaves that are growing in small pots, but they won't touch it if it is a loose leaf; I have tried them with flowering grass, all kinds of fruit, and various insect foods as a slight addition to the usual millet menu, but they never touch it. I don't know if other members have found the same thing, but my birds are distinctly conservative in their tastes.

East Putney, S. W.; March 19, 1923. A. H. BARNES.

[They will take flowering and seeding grass if growing in small pots, or if cut as a small turf too heavy for them to drag about—at least, such waxbills and avadavats as I keep caged in winter do so.—W.T.P.]



Cherry Finches and Nest. (A.P.P.)

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BIRD NOTES.

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Some Finches I have kept.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(*Continued from page 37*).

Cherry Finch (*Aidemosyne modesta*). This species has been known to aviculture for many, many years, but even during the period when there were no restrictions to the importation of Australian birds, it was neither plentiful nor regular in its appearance on the English bird market. A few have recently appeared, so these reminiscent notes will not be inappropriate.

It belongs to the same genus as the African and Indian Silverbills, and is very similar to them in form and general characteristics and also in the form and character of its nest, though it is not easy to persuade either species of Silverbill to build a natural nest in a tree or bush in captivity, for they almost invariably choose a Hartz travelling cage as a nest site. The Cherry Finch on the other hand, with me, has always chosen a natural nesting site, on the fairly numerous occasions it has attempted to reproduce itself in my aviaries.

Our frontispiece, skilfully drawn by Mrs. A. M. Cook, depicts an episode in my aviary during the troublous year 1917.

The Cherry Finch is a modestly pretty bird, decidedly handsome, though quietly coloured, is certainly an attractive bird.

Description. *Male.*—Upper parts brown, the rump is barred with white, and the upper tail-coverts spotted with the same colour; tail blackish brown with white terminal spots on the outer feathers; wings brown, flights dusky brown with paler outer margins, inner secondaries with terminal white spots; crown dark brown, with the fore portion plum or cherry colour; eye region and ear-coverts white, the latter barred with brown; under parts white with a black gorget, and the sides of neck and flanks barred with brown; beak black; legs dusky flesh-colour; iris deep chestnut.

Female.—General colour arrangement similar to male, but the plum coloured patch on fore-crown is smaller, and she lacks the black gorget of the male.

Attractive Qualities: It is much more vivacious and lively in its demeanour than its near relative the Silverbill. The beautiful harmony of its quaint, yet sharply contrasted, colouration is perfect. It is quite amiable with the other occupants of any aviary, though quite ready to defend its nest and mate. It is a cheery little bird, constantly uttering its merry little lay, and is in every way an acquisition to the finch aviary. It has, moreover, the advantage of being easy to breed, and the sexes are easy to distinguish, the one drawback being the liability of the hens to take a chill during wet, chilly periods, and consequently dying from inability to pass the egg unless discovered in time.

Habitat, etc.—It ranges over the wide Bay region, N.S. Wales, Victoria and Southern Australia generally. It builds its nest amid tallish ground herbage or in a low bush, and the clutch usually numbers five white eggs.

In Captivity.—Here we know this pretty finch under three names, viz: Plum-headed Finch, Modest Grassfinch, and Cherry Finch, but it is under the latter cognomen that it is best known. I have said this species is easy to breed, and so it is; but it is such a nervous little bird, usually leaving its eggs as soon as one enters the aviary, and remaining off till one leaves—the same applies if one passes near it outside the aviary—consequently comparatively few young have been reared by aviculturists in this country; moreover, its liability to egg-binding in damp, chilly weather renders the prospect of successfully rearing young even more remote. Yet, all the pairs that I have possessed in the course of years, have been eager to go to nest, all built and laid eggs, but only in two instances was complete success attained.

The episode figured on our frontispiece did not have a happy ending—they nested within a fortnight of arrival, and proved most interesting birds during courtship and the erection of their home. A very pretty, substantial and picturesque nest it was too; quite the best piece of *Aidemosyne* work I have seen—they adhered to their wild habits and built their nest in a small Holly-leaved Berberis, eighteen inches only above the ground (this has been mostly the custom with pairs in my aviary,

though on two occasions I have had nests built at an elevation of six feet, amid a mass of bindweed), only in one instance have they used an artificial nest site with me—one pair, once only, built in a rush nest-basket—all appeared to be going well with the pair on the plate. I saw three white eggs and was already "counting my chickens," for they are as easy as Silverbills to rear, when I picked up the hen dead—a cold night had intervened and she had been unable to pass her fourth egg, a perfectly shelled one!

Mr. J. Cronkshaw, as long ago as 1895, was the first to rear this species in this country; a single youngster was fully reared. Since then I have met with complete success on two occasions, six young in all being fully reared, and several other aviculturists have been similarly successful, but, though easy to breed, it certainly is not a prolific species in captivity.

In 1910, or thereabouts, an odd Cherry Finch and an unmated Masked Grassfinch—I do not remember at the moment of writing which species was the male parent—in Mr. H. L. Sich's aviary, mated and successfully reared one young hybrid, which was described in a back volume of "B.N."

Food.—But little is required under this heading; where they form part of a mixed collection of foreign finches the general *menu* provided will meet their need. They are hardbills pure and simple—canary, white millet, and Indian millet seeds, with millet sprays, and green-food will amply meet their simple requirements. When feeding young no special foods are required, as in a garden aviary they will catch midges, small flies, etc.; if kept in a cage a little soft-food should be offered though it is questionable whether they take any. All young hatched are usually reared; the only obstacle to prolificness is the liability of the hens to chill and consequent egg-binding; yet they cannot be designated a delicate species, for they certainly are not.

I have dilated at such length upon this old favourite of mine, that the one species must suffice for this instalment.

(*To be continued*).

Spring in our Aviaries.

By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

To the aviculturist, early spring is always an anxious time. The weather in our islands during the months of April and May is always very changeable and uncertain. We are quite likely to get, as happened this year, extremely warm weather in April, followed by almost Arctic conditions towards the end of May. This generally means many losses in the aviaries from pneumonia, egg-binding, etc. The deaths in my aviaries this season from these and other causes have been very heavy, and I can only hope that our other members have been more fortunate in this respect.

Towards the end of March the problem of re-stocking the empty outdoor aviaries has to be considered. Of course, in some of these aviaries there are birds that have been wintered out of doors, and it is even more important in these cases to consider what fresh birds can be introduced with safety. In re-stocking an empty aviary the risk of loss from quarrelling amongst the birds is not so great, but even here a good many losses from fighting will probably take place, as the different pairs come into breeding condition. No hard and fast rule as to what birds can be safely kept together can be drawn up, but it is generally safe to keep one pair each of five or six different species in a moderate-sized aviary. For instance, one might keep one pair of Thrushes, one pair of Weavers, one pair of Whydahs, one pair of Finches, and one pair of Buntings in one aviary; while in another pairs each of Cardinals, Larks, Weavers, Waxbills, and Bulbuls might be kept. It will not do to keep two pairs of Thrushes, Cardinals, or Buntings in the same aviary, neither is it safe to keep two totally different species, if of the same colour, together. For instance, Green Cardinals would probably kill Yellow Weavers or Saffron Finches, and the latter bird would certainly kill Green Singing-finches or Yellow Siskins.

About the first pair of birds to go to nest in my aviaries this season were a pair of Dominican Cardinals. These went to nest early in March in a conifer. The nest was extremely small for the size of the bird, being about the size of a Blackcap's, but not so deep. Up to date (May 25th) they have

had three clutches of two eggs each, in the same nest, none of which have proved fertile. While and before nesting, these birds were very savage with a pair of Red-crested Cardinals, which had to be removed, but they did not interfere with Chaffinches, Olive Finches, and Grey Singingfinches in the same aviary with them.

In the next enclosure, a pair of Saffron Finches killed an odd hen Saffron and would have killed a cock Mexican Dickcissel if it had not been removed. The introduction of the Red-crested Cardinals to their enclosure has altered the condition of things, for they in their turn have now to flee for their lives.

In an adjacent aviary a cock Abyssinian Weaver killed my cock Mahali Weaver, although they had been together all winter. The introduction of a hen Yellow Weaver was probably the cause of the trouble.

In one of my larger aviaries a pair of Benguela Sparrows (*Passer zagocusis benguelensis*), which started to nest at the end of April, murdered five out of six Snow Buntings, birds that had wintered here and were in fine condition. A more recent loss is a male Buffalo Weaver killed, I believe, by an unmated hen Ring Ouzel, which is now nesting. The similarity in the colour of the two birds was, I suppose, the trouble here.

Many other birds have been picked up dead, with fractured skulls, etc., victims of unknown murderers, and quite a number of cases of pneumonia, etc., have occurred. Last night I found one of my Misto Seed-finches very ill, evidently from egg-binding. I tried to catch it, but after a long chase with the net I failed to do so, although, when I first went after it, it looked as if it could be picked up by hand. I expected to find it dead this morning, but to my sruprise it appeared to have quite recovered. Probably the enforced exercise did it good, and this may be one of the reasons of the love chases we so often see in our aviaries.

The following birds have nested already: Hartlaub's, Cabini's and Russ' Weavers; Cuban, and Grey Singingfinches, Diuca Finch (unmated), Red-Ground, and Necklace Doves; Californian, and Plumbeous Quail; Cabot's, and Satyra Tragopans; Monauls, and Giant Tinamous, but, except for the

Necklace Doves, no young have been reared. One young Cabot's was hatched, but died same day, also two young Peacock Pheasants, one of which survives. Of the larger birds and waterfowl, twelve young Patagonian Geese were hatched, eleven of which are doing well. Rosy-billed Ducks are sitting, as is my male Demoiselle Crane, *on a full clutch of pebbles.* Why the hen Crane does not lay I do not know, as she is very active and healthy. I am afraid that the " Boyers " aviaries are not likely to have a very successful season, but I have one or two interesting species, new to aviculture, and, if these should do anything, shall write again later on.

Keeping and Feeding Hardbills.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U,

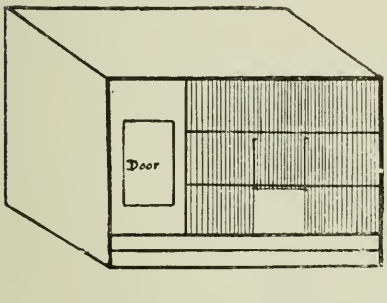
(*Continued from page 74*).

Hardbills in Cages: Type and size of cage is, of course, the matter of paramount importance in this section of my subject. I will confess at once to a strong prejudice against all wire cages, and to any with an all-wire top, and I certainly shall not recommend them—in my opinion such cages are largely responsible for many cases of vertigo which we hear of every now and again; a good many inquiries have reached me concerning this trouble (Parrots and Parrakeets are not included here; this group will form the last section of this article), and, invariably, the patients have been kept in all-wire and open-top cages—then again in such cages birds have no protection from any cold winds or draughts with which they come in contact—therefore my advice is do not use them.

This leaves us only the box-type cage, and these need not disfigure any room, be it in cottage or mansion. A plain, neatly-made box-cage, with a straight wire-front, distempered inside with pale sea-green washable distemper, and stained on the outside with some black, or dull mahogany-colour varnish stain is really handsome. Many cages grotesquely ornamented are offered for sale; they may be pretty, but they certainly are not handsome, and there is a vast difference between *pretty* and *handsome*. A plain, unadorned cage is the latter and will not be an offensive object in any room.

We next reach the question of size. What is to be our guide? Not the size, but demeanour of the bird. The smallest species known, owing to its restless activity, may require as large a cage as is usually provided for a bird four or five times its size; for deprived of the space to indulge in the exercise of its unceasing vivacity and activity it soon becomes mopish, ill-conditioned, and falls an easy prey to any ailment that attacks it, or to any malignant germ it comes in contact with.

I do not keep birds in any cage smaller than 30ins. long, 15ins. deep, and 15 to 18ins. high, when, keep birds in cages I must. If breeding is your object then as much larger as your convenience permits—the diagram herewith figures a cage I have found really a good one, though I keep very few birds in cages. Mr. E. J. Brook had a number of them in his bird-room, and found them equally useful and *good looking* (handsome).



We next come to the furnishings—I do not like straight perches and never use them, *twigy branches for me every time.* A couple of bottomless sockets fixed at either end of the cage enables one to put in twigy branches and take them out at will. Your birds' claws get twigs of varied thickness to grip, just the exercise the muscles of their feet require, and sore feet are a thing unknown. I like the food vessels affixed to a small door, to which a side piece is attached, so that as the door is fully opened the "side piece" closes up the door opening. The type of nest receptacle required should in like manner have a hook of some kind provided for it so that it can be put up and taken down without any undue disturbance.

Such a cage will cost, perhaps, a little more than some of the very ornate contraptions one is so often offered. Granted, but you will have a cage infinitely more useful, thoroughly practical and hygienic, that will compare favourably in appearance with any cage made, and one in which any thinking bird-keeper can keep his birds healthy and fit. And we have no

right to keep birds at all if we aim at anything short of this.

Well my task is nearly ended, for the food question is similar, species for species, to that required for aviaries, and need not be repeated in detail. A word of warning, however, is necessary; birds in cages, even of the type above described, do not get the same amount of exercise that birds in roomy aviaries do, therefore they do not need so much of the rich, flesh-forming foods as birds in aviaries do—to birds in cages these would mean overfatness and consequent illhealth, while those in aviaries could take almost any quantity with impunity

To be quite clear I never give soft-food to caged hardbills unless they are feeding young; live insects must also be given in strict moderation. The birds should be kept under strict observation and at the least sign of obesity and grossness be put on a course of fluid magnesia and chemical food. To hardbills in cages I find for most of the year that seed and green-food (some species require a little ripe fruit as well) alone are ample to keep them in that condition commonly called fit.

At the time of the moult a little more may be required, and soft-food may be supplied to such species as care to take it, also a little live-food; the latter weavers and whydahs require both at the time of the moult, and also when they are coming into colour (donning breeding plumage); once these are complete the supply of these rich foods should be gradually, not suddenly, cut-off.

I have ignored tautology in the hope of making myself clear to all, and trust I have succeeded in doing so.

The next instalment, Parrots and Parrakeets, will conclude our subject.

(To be concluded).

How I Became Interested in Foreign Birds.

By S. T. Parker.

I response to our respected Editor's appeal in the February-March issue, I have always felt too modest to attempt to write copy for Bird Notes, being content to leave it to more advanced and experienced aviculturists, but as our Editor, of

late, appears to be giving the members of the F.B.C. a rap on the knuckles for the apathy apparently shown towards the Journal, I will attempt to make a small contribution in the shape of my experience, and how I became interested in Foreign Bird Keeping.

From my earliest days I was always a lover of nature and had not arrived in my teens when I possessed a cage full of modest little Redpolls. My memory goes back to the time when I first saw an Italian with Budgerigars in a cage trained to pick out your fortune. From that time onwards I always had a keen eye for the beautiful plumage of foreign birds. I chanced one day to come across an advertisement of a book on *Popular Parrakeets*, that could be easily kept and bred in outdoor aviaries. This aroused my curiosity sufficiently to send for a copy, which I devoured from end to end. I decided to start with a few Budgerigars. At this time I was keeping fowls, and was not long in clearing out my stock and having the house reconstructed and fitted up as an aviary for Budgerigars and Cockateels; and here began my experience of pleasures and disappointments.

The aviary being completed I set to work to procure a few Budgerigars off a dealer. I purchased two or three pairs, as I thought. These turned out to be all young cocks, and being, undoubtedly, freshly imported, I turned them out too early, and they departed this life one by one. This was my first disappointment, but not sufficient to deter me from going on. I afterwards learned I made a mistake in buying newly imported birds, so procured some aviary-bred specimens, which I succeeded in breeding, much to my delight.

I found Budgerigars could be very pugnacious when they liked; I once had a Cockateel scalped by a Budgerigar.

My next venture was with a pair of Cockateels. I gave the order for a pair, and, after repeated calls at the shop, the birds duly arrived. I, of course, expected birds with feathers on but, to my surprise, these birds were absolutely naked, with the exception of a few quills on the top of the head where the birds were unable to pull them out. I was naturally very disappointed at the sight, but was calmly assured that the birds were quite healthy, and in an aviary the feathers would soon

be renewed, as the birds were merely in the moult (yes, I happened to remember reading about French moult). Needless to say, I did not part with my half-guinea, which was the sum asked for the birds, but was wise enough to ask the shopkeeper to return the birds and get me a pair in decent plumage. The second pair arrived, which I purchased. The cock was healthy and strong, but the hen, I afterwards discovered, had an injured wing and deformed feet, and did nothing but scurry away when anyone approached the aviary, shrieking as though she was being murdered. This bird eventually committed suicide in the bath—another disappointment! However, I purchased another hen, which soon became attached to its partner, and in due time I had the pleasure of a brood of young Cockateels.

I was next interested in the lovely Red Rosella Parrakeet, and purchased a pair of aviary-bred birds from a lady's aviary in Derbyshire; these I considered gorgeous, and spent many happy moments observing their lovely plumage. One morning I was coming out of the aviary, and not being cautious enough, the hen flew over my head and went soaring away. Yet another disappointment! I sent away for another hen, which turned out to be a cock; disgusted, I then exchanged the Rosellas for a pair of Red-rumps from an outdoor aviary. These birds soon settled down, and, to my great pleasure this time, I was successful in breeding with this pair, and sold several birds, which made up for past losses. I have also kept Quaker and Plossom-headed Parrakeets; the latter are extremely nice aviary birds, but the former I did not keep long owing to their screaming propensities.

Finches: After keeping Parrakeets for a few years, my interest turned towards foreign finches, not particularly with the idea of breeding, but in order to have a variety of colour. The Weavers and Whydahs afforded me much pleasure and interest when the breeding season came round to watch their change of plumage from the sparrow-like appearance of the winter season to their gaudy but beautiful summer dress.

I had the following species as a mixed collection: White and Grey Java Sparrows, Orange Bishops, Madagascar Weavers, Whydahs, etc., and a few Budgerigars. A handful

of mealworms would soon fetch the birds to the ground, and one could not wish for a finer sight when the Weavers and Whydahs were in full colour.

The Weavers did not attempt to breed, but built many pretty and curious nests by way of amusement. I was very successful one season with Zebra Finches. I turned two or three pairs out in the spring, and I had quite a host of young ones by the end of the summer.

Softbills: I only possessed two species, viz: a Pekin Nightingale and a Red-vented Bulbul; both were delightful songsters. I did not add to their number, as I found they were much more difficult to cater for than Seed-eaters.

Golden Pheasants: These birds make a fine addition to an aviary, and look very handsome strutting about. My first experience of Golden Pheasants was to purchase two cock birds just showing colour, and was informed that they would agree if brought up together. All went well till the breeding season came round, when, to my disappointment, one day I found they had been fighting, and so disfigured themselves that they were obliged to go. I next procured pairs of Gold and Amherst Pheasants, but found the hens so wild during the breeding season that I would not be troubled with pairs, but, as I so admired the plumage, I decided to have one bird simply for show purposes. I procured a hybrid Gold × Amherst—a handsome large bird, which became so tame that when I entered the aviary with a jar of mealworms he would walk round and pick them out of my hand.

To the members who possess large and beautiful aviaries and a collection of the rarer species of foreign birds these notes may appear uninteresting, but I have simply related my experience in order to show my willingness to comply with our Editor's request. To the man of leisure with an eye to beauty, I would say take up the pleasurable hobby of foreign bird keeping, and you will never feel lonely or depressed amongst your bright-coated and cheery friends.

I shall be pleased to read in future copies of the Journal notes from other members, on how they became interested in and keep their foreign birds.

A Mixed Collection.

By Isabella Belford Wilson.

[We so often get inquiries from members in town or city, with no accommodation for an outdoor aviary, as to the next best thing for keeping a few birds happily and successfully—the reply obviously is a birdroom, and as a help we reprint this short article from Bird Notes, Vol. I. (out of print), which, though somewhat sparse of detail, is yet a narrative of successful bird-keeping.—Editor.]

When first I began to keep foreign birds I was more than doubtful as to how the different species would agree together. However, I had only one room which I could give up to the birds, so I was obliged to chance the risk of putting in large and small together—and the result has been a success. My bird-room is large and lofty, and this may be the reason that my somewhat varied collection live in peace, for I found after a short experience that even the most peaceful birds will quarrel if caged in a small space.

In the middle of the room I have a good-sized tree with bare branches, and there are various shrubs in pots; while from the roof hang numbers of husks, suspended by cords or chains. The husks afford endless amusement to the smaller birds, which are *not* supposed to nest in them, as well as to the Budgerigars. The Green Budgerigar breeds very freely with me, and I have every hope of being equally fortunate with the Yellow variety. Besides the husks there are tubs fixed on the walls for the Cockateels, and numerous boxes for the finches, etc.

My happy family in the birdroom consists of the following:

2 pairs Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*).
2 pairs Green Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).
2 pairs Yellow Budgerigars (*M. undulatus*, var. *luteus*).
2 pairs Grey Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora*).
2 pairs Ribbon Finches (*Amadina fasciata*).
2 pairs Bengalese (*Munia domestica*).
1 pair White Java Sparrows (*M. oryzivora* var. *alba*).
1 pair Grey Singingfinches (*Serinus leucopygius*).
1 pair Blue Robins (*Sialia sialis*).
1 pair Madagascar Lovebirds (*Agapornis cana*).

1 pair Black-headed Mannikins (*Munia atricapilla*).
1 pair Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
Also the following odd birds: Spice Finch, Indigo Bunting, 2 male Cordon Bleus, 2 Weavers, and various odd Waxbills, 10-11 Canaries, a Bullfinch, a Goldfinch, two Redpolls, a Goldfinch mule, and a Great Tit.

My birds, which are all in the best of health, have a good supply of clean water every day in large shallow pans, and all but the Budgerigars and Cockateels wash thoroughly. I supply soft-food daily, also canary seed and hemp mixed, white and spray millet, groats, and plenty of greenfood, and sometimes an apple.

I have been successful in breeding Bengalese, Zebra Finches, Ribbon Finches, and Budgerigars, and, considering that I have not had my birds for more than a year, I think this is very encouraging. I have, at the time of writing, a nice brood of young Budgerigars nearly ready to leave the nest. I find the chief difficulty in breeding foreign finches is the delicacy of the hens—recently I have lost, without any apparent cause, three hen Cordon Bleus.

My birds are so used to seeing me among them that they pay little or no attention to my coming and going. I have a stove always burning in the cold weather, and the wire cage it is enclosed in forms a favourite roosting place.

Observations of a Bird Lover.

Compiled By W. T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

A friend wrote me the other day—she shall be nameless—a letter so characteristic of a keen interest in birds, which had been apparent in aforetime correspondence, that I decided to pass parts of it on to readers of Bird Notes, not that it contains much that is new, but as typical of the intense interest and care in the well-being of the birds she keeps, that leads to an intelligent knowledge and appreciation of the birds' needs, and, more important still, to an intelligent application of those *known* fundamental principles, without which there can be no humane or successful bird-keeping, and, moreover, demonstrates that keenness for knowledge in all pertaining to her feathered friends

in cages in her living-room, and the prompt application of it after due consideration, to her feathered companions. I use this last word advisedly, for that is what her feathered friends are to her.

May I be pardoned if I say that it is the lack of this keen, intelligent interest in the birds we keep—we take, too many of us, merely a passing interest, admire their beauty, etc., and that is the end of it—that is largely responsible for so little copy for the Journal coming to hand of late? Because of this lack they have but little to write about!

Her first note relates to a well known fact, yet how comparatively few act upon it!

BUDGERIGARS DO NOT BATHE: I will quote the writer's own words with but little abridgement:

"An Australian seaman told me, and my little narrative bears it out. "Budgerigars do not go into the water at home (their native heath), but "at sunrise they bathe right enough in wet grass, and added: you go and "cut off a lot of wet grass, or if weather is dry dip it in soft water, "and put a heap in the cage and *see*; I did this and what I saw then took "me round to a dealer's shop here, where there was a very large cage-full "of newly-arrived Budgerigars looking very mopey and miserable. The "woman in charge said 'trade's shocking, no one ever even looks in the "window.' That gave me my opening, and I said, I will make dozens of "people look in if you will let me give those Budgerigars in the window a "native bath—her answer came promptly 'Oh, Miss, budgerigars never "bathe!' 'Not in water, I replied, you wait and see.' I only lived a street "away and went and cut a basketful of grass about 4—6 in. long, wet with "the rain then falling and hastened back with it (Dealer's shop is in a "narrow street in Oxford, in direct line to and from the Station—"people passing the whole time). I put a mound 8—10in. high and round "on the cage floor; like magic, in an instant every budgerigar was in and "on it, and, there was a rolling tossing whirlwind of grass and blue tails "and each bird was joyously screaming, their delight very apparent. Of "course, I had only seen my two do it, but this was a spectacle, and the "woman kept on 'Oh, my lor.' Presently the one or two passers by "who had heard and stopped became a crowd in the road and the shop-"woman exclaiming, 'Oh my lor, we shall have the pleece'! A car "stopped and a lady came in, looked on, and then took away two pairs and "a cage!"

"My own budgerigars used to roll over and over, tossing the wet "grass over themselves, excitedly chattering and warbling all the time—"an abundant testimony of their joysome gladsomeness—much as if they "said 'Life is worth living now.'"

I do not think any apology is needed for including the above in our pages—too often it is the perfectly obvious that is overlooked. My friend has a great affection for, and kindly interest in, any crippled or injured birds she comes across, that, left to themselves in the battle of nature, would go to the wall, forming a ready prey for the first enemy that appeared. Many such live for years with her, and her affection is returned—I leave her next incident to speak for itself:

"*A Wonderful Cure.*—"Thanks to your former advice I achieved "lately what seems to me a wonderful cure. I would not ask a British "query per *Cage Birds* as I should have been advised to have it killed. A "bird I have had for seven years, quite blind, I found it lying on the ground "in this garden, had watched it coming to feed with other Greenfinches, "etc.; then it went round one way, I knew blind in one eye. After some "time it blundered against everything—nearly blind—then one day it gave "up in despair, could no longer forage or feed at the pans of food and "water I supplied, and lay down to wait for the first death that came. It "was not ill, injured or wasted. I took it in, and it let me feed it and soon "learned to find the food pots and water vessel, it bathed and flew across "its eighteen inch cage, chirped and still does so; it lives on soft food. "Now, my wonderful cure comes in. A week or two ago it began running "round and round one way, in about an eight inch circle, faster and faster "all day—I tried to feed it and managed to give it enough to keep it "alive as it ran; but after four days and after asking every one I could "think of I read over some of your letters, and found directions for a "Bronze-wing Mannikin with fits—Bromide. I gave it two grains of bro-"mide in food and water, and in one day it was considerably relieved, in "four days nearly well—I gave it every other day bromide, and three drops "of brandy (as you advised for extreme exhaustion). To-day it is per "fectly well and as active as ever."

"One odd thing about it while the trouble lasted was that it stopped "the running round and round at roosting time and got on its perch and "slept. Before it slept I was able to give it a good meal. I gave it "a brown paper floor covering to its cage, so that if it fell from its perch "in the night it would wake me up."

My friend writes also in a more general sense, alluding to the time when she was not always tied down to apartment rooms; this also demonstrates her deep love for, and interest in wild life.

"You see, having birds in an outdoor aviary enjoying almost natural "advantages, you may not be as likely to see what birds do at dawn, as I "do living with my pets around me. When I was at my old country home, "free to go out at any hour, I used to be out and sit immovable among the

" little wild people, and saw many things; birds especially, were quite dif-
" ferent creatures to what they were later in the day, when their enemies,
" especially humans, were about."

" It was at sunrise I first heard young (one and two year old) cock
" sparrows *sing*.—I wonder how many people know they do? I have a fine
" book on birds that states 'Sparrows only have a hoarse irritating chirp'
" —That is what sparrows think good enough for a world that despises them
" (a little too sweeping.—Ed.) I have had many in-doors, wounded and
" healed, but unable to fly far enough to go free and I know them well. I
" am always with my birds day and night. They are on a waist high, 18
" in. wide window-sill, 8½ ft. long, at the other end of the room (Foreigners
" kept at stove end). I heard a lovely little soft fluting (not my old
" linnet, he *shouts;* not Siskins, and there remained only foreigners), so I
" did not move, but took up a little hand looking-glass and saw my two year
" old and a younger cock sparrows singing—the older birds never sing,
" and the younger not after day is begun."

Hybridising Sparrows: " I have seen letters in the Fancy Press on
" this topic, and, I am sure it is possible; that is if a cock bird be used, the
" hens I find never get tame they are also very nervous, even after six or
" seven years of cage-life.* Also, the cock builds the nest. One of mine
" has built a nest, in a box fixed over the cage door opening, but the hen
" simply dismantles the nest."

With all the writer's deductions we may not be in perfect accord, but they make interesting reading, and evince a strong interest in, and love for, the wild feathered creatures of the air. Also the faculty to use and apply any knowledge and experience gained.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak
(Hedymeles ludovicianus).

By F.Z.S.

Alas! This beautiful species, once of frequent occurrence on the English bird-market, is now seldom seen, though occasionally a few appear.

It is a native of North America and is there much valued as a cage pet, both for plumage and song.

It has a fine appearance, and in size about equals the Hawfinch and is of similar build, but has a less formidable beak. Its plumage is a beautiful arrangement of dark and light brown above; beneath it is white with a beautiful pink breast.

* One can have tame hen Sparrows by hand-rearing them—I have possessed several such; moreover, they retained their tameness after two or three years in a *large* outdoor aviary.—W.T.P.

It was in 1898, I think, that I first possessed specimens—two fine males, of this grand species, which would be noticeable in any collection of birds, however gorgeously apparelled. They were in good form on arrival, and, after a day's rest, were turned into the aviary, among a very mixed series of waxbills, small finches, tanagers, thrushes, doves and pigeons, and they settled down at once, being greatly admired by all visitors. These two males proved hardy and quite amiable, but as I never possessed the female I know nothing of their character as mated pairs—very doubtful company, I should assume, for small birds.

They were nearly always on view, and a beautiful sight they were flitting about amid the bushes and shrubs. They had many interesting mannerisms, looking especially fine when perched on their toes, with bodies stretched upright (a favourite pose of theirs) to their fullest extent, taking a general look around. This was mostly the attitude they adopted for song; there were no half measures about this, for they literally shouted out their melody. I am inclined to think their power of song is somewhat exaggerated by Americans, that is according to English standards. There is no doubt about his persistence or power; he is most vociferous in the evening, when, on tip-toe, he pours out a flood of thrush-like notes. His song reminds one of the Virginian Cardinal, but is more powerful and varied, also more hurried in utterance—the term "gushes forth" appears appropriate. I have never heard them sing from the centre of a bush, not even *sotto voce*, always from an elevated twig—the topmost twig of the tallest bush being a favourite position.

Food: My birds proved practically omnivorous. The aviary "bill of fare" included milk-sop, soft-food, seed (canary, millet, sunflower, safflower, wild seed mixture, and hemp), and live insects, and they partook of all, but their bulk food was canary seed and as many insects as they could get. Green-food (seeding grass, dandelion and general garden weeds) they also ate freely. They are inveterate bathers.

As regards attractive qualities, either for cage or aviary, they have many: e.g., they soon steady down, are very hardy, very intelligent, cheerful song, and striking and beautiful plumage—what more can the aviculturist require?

Some Hybrid Records—Culled from Earlier Volumes of "B. N."

Compiled By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

In looking through some past volumes of Bird Notes recently, it struck me that a few notes of some of the hybrids referred to therein would greatly interest present readers.

1. Spice Bird-Bengalese: I. B. Wilson writes:

"I have bred the above cross this season (1902) in my bird-room, the "father being a Spice-bird and the mother a Bengalese: the young birds "are brown for the most part, but their coverts are beginning to have a "family spotted appearance, similar to the breast of a spice-bird; in one "only the breast is white, with a white spot on the forehead and under the "chin. There are five of these interesting little birds; they are about three "months old and wonderfully strong and healthy."

I think this is about the earliest record of the successful breeding of the above hybrid.

2. Green Singingfinch-Goldfinch: The late Miss R. Alderson, in 1902, wrote of this rather unique cross as follows:

"In one of my aviaries I have a hen English Goldfinch and a cock "Green Singingfinch. Both birds are in fine health and plumage. This "summer they have nested twice. The first nest was built close to a "Violet Dove's nest, and the two birds sat in perfect harmony within a "few inches of each other. Four or five eggs were laid, and the Goldfinch "sat well, but unfortunately the nest was destroyed by some other bird. "A second nest was made later and three young ones hatched. One was "drowned just as it left the nest. The other two are fine young birds, "now over two months old, and one of them is beginning to sing nicely. "In size and shape they are rather like a hen chaffinch. Both birds are "showing yellow and orange in the forehead, chin and wings. I think "they should be very handsome in a short time."

A Current Episode: At the present time I have a cock American Black-headed Siskin (*Astragalinus tristis*) and a hen English Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*) in my large aviary. Both have been in the aviary two years, but prior to this spring have not consorted together in any way, neither had I noticed them doing so this year, but a fortnight ago our treasurer, Mr. S. Williams, spent the weekend with me, and on Sunday (May 13th) he noticed both siskin and goldfinch carrying nesting material, but we did not find where they were placing it—since I have found the nest: it is in a Hartz travelling-cage, a typical goldfinch's nest, constructed of dead bindweed stems for the base,

and this material also forms part of exterior, the remainder being composed of grass (only a little), hay and rabbit fur—to-day (May 24th) it contains two or three eggs—I cannot say more re this episode at present, save that, in spite of diabolic weather, both are vigorous birds and in perfect form, having spent the winters of 1922 and 1923 out of doors.

3. Bronze Mannikin × Bengalese: The following record is not an English one, but is worth a place here—the scene being laid in Italy:

> "I have a brood of five young hybrids from a Bronze Mannikin and "a Fawn and White Bengalese—the young are exactly like Nutmeg Finches "(Spice-birds), except that the ground colour at the sides is fawn colour, "speckled with black. They are about the same size as the Nutmeg Finch "—a good deal larger than their parents. But my Bronze Mannikins are "aviary-bred, and very small.—Giula Tommassi."

In the above the one point for comment is the size of the hybrid, for the Bronze Mannikin is a *small bird*, smaller than the Bengalese, and one would hardly have expected the hybrids to be larger than the largest parent, in this instance the female (Bengalese). In my experience, when parent birds have been large and small, their progeny have been of intermediate size, and also, from a rather wide knowledge of results in other aviaries, this appears to be the general rule—to quote two instances from my own aviaries, viz: Bronze × Magpie Mannikin (*male parent placed first*), and Cutthroat × Red-headed Finch; in the former case all the young were of intermediate size between the two parent species, and in the latter case the result was similar with one exception, and the exception very nearly approached the size of the Red-headed Finch, but, so far as my experience goes, it is the exception and not the rule, where the female parent is the larger bird, for the young to equal her in size—the Italian incident being the first case I have heard of; it causes me to query was the male parent of Giula Tommassi's hybrids a Magpie Mannikin and not the Bronze?

With this instalment I am not going outside the scope of the first volume of Bird Notes (1901-2), so will now turn to a few references of British hybrids referred to therein, as follows:

Those marked * were successfully bred and the young reared; †—only partial success attained, young not reared; §—

eggs only—male parent placed first in each instance:

*Canary × Bullfinch	§Hawfinch × Bullfinch (fertile egg only)
*Greenfinch × Bullfinch	
*Goldfinch × Bullfinch	§Goldfinch × Greenfinch
*Linnet × Bullfinch	*Linnet × Greenfinch

* Redpoll × Bullfinch.

In most, if not all the above, the young hybrids were reared by foster-parents (canaries being the foster-parent used), and cross-mated pairs were kept both in aviaries and cages—success or non-success is, of course, in this paper confined to records in BIRD NOTES, and in this instalment to Vol. I., F.S.

I purpose digressing here to include what I believe to be the first record of the successful breeding of the Spice Bird (*Munia punctulata*) by our president, the Lady Dunleath, in 1901. Her aviaries have recently been described in BIRD NOTES, so I shall quote only the terse breeding notes, as follow:

"*Breeding the Spice Bird.*—I have had my pair of Spice-Birds for some "years—since 1896 I think. In May of last year (1900) I turned all my "birds out into a new outdoor aviary which I had made. In the No. 1 "Division of same I have:

Canaries	Avadavats	Parson Finches
Ribbon Finches	Nuns	Saffron Finches
Waxbills	Bengalese	Bullfinches
Cockateels	Java Doves	Cordon Blens
Spice Birds	Scarlet Tanager	Nicobar Pigeons
Mountain Finch	Superb Tanager	Fontenegra Finch

in all 130 birds."

"Before I went to Scotland this autumn (1901) I had only one pair "of Spice Birds, and I noticed one of them sitting in a travelling box-cage, "which was hung inside the aviary cottage-shelter, from the roof, by a "long wire (to prevent mice from getting at the nest). I went away at "the beginning of August, and on returning at the end of September I "found two young Spice Birds flying about, with fluff still on their heads. "They are now (December 1901) a beautiful rich brown, and more clearly "marked than their parents. Three Cordon Blens were also reared.—N. "L. F. DUNLEATH."

The whole of Series 1 of BIRD NOTES is out of print, so I feel assured such record and episodes as the above will prove of much interest to my readers, as but very few *original* members are left on the roll.

To be continued.

The Stanley Parrakeet

(Platycercus icteros).—A Warning.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

From lack of space and other causes I am giving up the regular breeding of Stanley Parrakeets which I have carried on for about nine years, with the result that there is now in Europe an unrelated stock of this pretty species, quite sufficient, *if properly managed,* to render aviculturists independent of importation from Australia.

I should like to emphasise the fact, however, that Stanley owners must take a great deal more pains over the housing and mating of their stock than bird-keepers have ever done in the past with any parrakeet, budgerigars alone excepted, if in a few years' time Stanleys are not to become as scarce as Elegants and New Zealands.

During the whole time I have been breeding Stanleys no hen, to my own knowledge, has been imported from Australia, and but very few cocks. Of late years I have found it difficult to get £2 10s. for my young birds. When I began breeding one was lucky to get a hen for £6, and that, or a considerably higher price, is what bird-keepers will again have to pay if my warning is neglected, unless I am altogether mistaken. I have done my bit, and the future of the species in Europe now rests with those who, at different times, have secured my young or imported stock.

Keeping and Breeding the Gold-breasted Waxbill.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Of all the beautiful, wee members of this group none appeal to us more than *Sporaeginthus subflavus*, for it combines, wee size, ability to live in our climate, with exquisite beauty, and is mostly to be obtained at a reasonable figure—a quartet of qualities which are specially attractive to the aviculturist.

It is, however, by no means a free breeder, even in large, naturally-planted aviaries—I kept them for many years in very natural quarters before they even attempted to nest, though complete success came my way later on. Recently, I came across

a narrative of "all-but" success, which so interested me that I interpolate it here *in extenso*, as follows:

"Being very much in love with the Gold-breasted or Zebra Waxbill, and most desirous of breeding that species in my outdoor aviary, I purchased a pair from a dealer early in May last (1900). Though the birds were not in good plumage (being minus their tails) they were certainly healthy, and I was glad to be able to turn them into my sunny aviary, after a few days quarrantine only. Here they soon improved in appearance, and their lively ways were most interesting. The male bird was a splendid little fellow, and seemed to glory in dancing to his mate with a feather in his beak twice the size of himself!

"Towards the middle of August (1901) I noticed Mr. Waxy was particularly anxious to breed in a small shrub growing by the entrance door, and would carry heaps of feathers into a nest of hay I had already put there. There was, however, little or no joy for the birds in selecting this position, as they were robbed unmercifully by their companions, and I began to think their nesting successfully was out of the question—my Zebra Finches, Bengalese, and other waxbills having taken possession of all the more suitable nesting boxes. I would not be discouraged, however. In a very snug and sheltered corner of the aviary, I hung up a small wicker cage, with some nice sweet hay and a few feathers inside. This, to me, seemed an ideal spot, and I hoped my pretty Golden-breasts would soon inspect the new premises, and decide upon setting up housekeeping immediately. I was not disappointed. The nest was completed, and about September 24th I noticed the birds were sitting very closely—first one and then the other—and, seeing their anxiety whenever an inquisitive individual approached, I concluded they had either eggs or young. I was right in my surmises, for on going into the aviary a week later, I found a tiny dead bird on the ground, just underneath their nest. My high hopes, I thought, were not to be realised. But as time went on I could distinctly hear young birds being fed, and from the noise they made I came to the conclusion that there were at least five or six. The old birds were capital feeders, and ate heartily of spray and white millet, soft food, and grass in the ear. What I particularly observed during the time of rearing was this—the parents were always busy hunting the aviary wires, the turf, and the roof of an outhouse, over which the covered part of the aviary is erected—apparently in search of insect food (gnats, I suppose); and aphides from the rose trees and sweet peas planted against the wires outside.

My anxiety at this time was, I confess, very great, and my curiosity to see young Gold-breasts leave their nest, not a bit less. But for this I had to wait till the morning of *October 28th*, when to my delight I saw two tiny birds fly from the nest to the ground. They were fully fledged, had black beaks, and were of a uniform brown, with the exception of the under parts, which were of a lighter colour. Surely these healthy birds, in the pink of condition would be reared! I never dreamed otherwise. But alas! there came a night when my spirits sank below zero! It was the first day of November. The parents were anxious to nest again, and, I

suppose, thought it high time their young should shift for themselves. Next morning I found one of the two dead—the other flying about as usual, and it continued doing so (apparently in the best of health) for another week or ten days, when it also succumbed. The old birds had built a new nest and obstinately refused to feed their young the last thing at night, or to admit them into their nest, so they fretted and died. Had they been fed a day or two longer I feel convinced I should now be the proud possessor of a couple of outdoor-aviary-bred Gold-breasts.

"Of course the season was too late to expect such birds to be reared, but I have hopes of being successful next season.

"I may add that, in the same aviary my pair of Zebra Finches reared two nests of six each, and the Bengalese a brood of five.—Lucy Dutton."

There are many beautiful waxbills that come to us from various parts of Africa; without giving any one species pre-eminence above its fellows, none surpass, in my opinion, the exquisite wee Golden-breast, the smallest member of the waxbill group. Whether judged by their sprightly active demeanour, beautiful plumage, contour, soft song, or general characteristics they have few species that surpass, or even equal them in the avian world. Mrs. Golden-breast, though clad in a quieter tone, is equally as beautiful as her more brightly clad "lord and master." A pair of Golden-breasts in good plumage adorn any aviary or collection, however grand or rare they be; they are, moreover, a well-matched couple, not always from the matrimonial point of view for they are not free breeders in captivity; however, their behaviour to each other and their fellows is usually exemplary; but because the colour tones of male and female are in such complete harmony one with the other.

Often, when viewing my birds from a little distance, have I mistaken the cock bird for a flower, for, when perched on the twig of some living bush, the greens of his plumage are lost in their setting of living-green, and only his gorgeous golden-orange breast stands out, looking for all the world like some gorgeous golden flower—and, though one, after the first surprise, senses the optical deception, remembering perhaps that there were no plants just there to account for such a flower, yet on more than one occasion the illusion has only passed when a nearer approach brought the whole form, colour and beauty of the bird into view. But this rhasphody is not aviculture, though it may be very human, so we will pass on.

I do not think, however, I need quote here my experiences of successful breeding episodes, as it would be but a repetition in different phaseology of Lucy Dutton's "all-but" success given above; therefore it will suffice to say that my successes took place in a roomy, naturally planted garden-aviary, and that they occurred in the late summer (August—October), and that while they had young to feed they were foraging for insects (mostly midges, small flies and aphides) the live-long day. That all the young hatched out, so far as I am aware, were fully reared. Incubation, so far as I was able to check it, lasted 11-13 days. The young left the nest when from three to four weeks old, and were fending for themselves about a fortnight later. Nestling plumage has already been described to a given point. Further, though the young males did not assume full colour till after their first moult, there was soon a certain amount of colour development apparent, sufficient to enable one to distinguish the young males when they were from two to three months old.

Food: Gold-breasts are not difficult to cater for; Indian millet, millet sprays and green-food about meet their simple needs, with, of course, the usual essentials, viz: water, grit and cuttle-bone. When they are feeding young either preserved or live ants' eggs (cocoons) should be supplied (live ants' eggs, of course, should be supplied if in season. They will eat mealworms, but if the aviary is roomy and contains growing bushes and herbage, these will not be needed, as they will capture innumerable small flies, midges, etc., for themselves. Flowering and seeding grass is the green-food *par excellence*, but all garden weeds in the flower and seed stage may be offered. Superfluous blighty sprays from rose and fruit trees will be a boon at breeding time.

I have always found them reasonably hardy; abnormal weather periods are trying to humans, birds and all life, and it is at these periods that their comfort should be specially seen to, and their health carefully watched. I have always found the exceptionally mild, muggy, wet winters more trying to bird-life than hard frost and snow. Given a snug sleeping-place, i.e., a weatherproof shelter and small nest receptacle to sleep in enables this species usually to emerge triumphantly from the weather conditions of an English winter.

If kept in a cage, though this is a small species, let it be a roomy one, with twigy branches for perches. I do not know of any record of them breeding successfully in a cage in this country, but I think they have done so on the Continent, so the prospect of so doing is not a hopeless one. The food and treatment will be the same as given for the aviary.

Correspondence.

BREEDING RESULTS FOR 1923.

SIR,—To date, June 3rd, 1923, my results are as follow:

Crimson-wing Parrakeets (*Ptistes erythropterus*) have young in nest.

Ring-necked Parrakeets (*Palaeornis torquatus*) have young in nest.

Barraband's Parrakeets (*Polytelis barrabandi*) incubating.

Crimson-wing Parrakeet (*Ptistes erythropterus*) paired to a Princess of Wales' Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandrae*) incubating.

Rocket Peplar Parrakeets (*Polytelis melanura*) laid five eggs, four of which were fertile, but the nest (on the ground) was flooded out.

King Parrakeets (*Aprosmictus cycnopygius*), Alexandrine Parrakeets (*Palaeornis alexandrina*), and Malabar Parrakeets (*P. malabaricus*) came into breeding condition but did not lay before falling into moult.

Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*): Their first lot of eggs were clear (cock getting too old). Other nest of second pair spoiled by hen getting egg-bound.

Two nests of Barnard's and Blossom-headed Parrakeets were also spoiled by the hens getting egg-bound.

Sulu Island King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus suluensis*), unmated, laid three eggs and incubated them.

Swift Parrakeets (*Nanodes discolor*) seem to be coming into breeding condition.

(The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

EARLY NOTES.

SIR,—The weather so far has been very inauspicious for aviculture, nevertheless, a start has been made.

I have two young Isabelline Doves (*Turtur isabellina*) on the wing and fending for themselves.

A Chinese Turtle Dove is also fully reared, and I do not think this species (or race) has been previously bred in this country. They are very like the Necklace Dove.

My Palm Doves, not *Turtur senegalensis*, have also fully reared one young bird, which is now fending for itself.

The weather is too cold for the small birds as yet, and there is not much doing among them, but a Nonpareil (♂) and Indigo Bunting (♀) have cross-mated and are building. Yellow-bellied Grosbeaks are also busy carrying nesting material. The Baltimore Hangnests are building and, as on previous occasions when so doing, have become very tame again.

My Parrakeets are all in good health and, I think, must be nesting or have young in the nest, as I have not seen the hens for some weeks past.

These indications point to general activity with the advent of warm weather, but it is long in coming.

Woolton Tower, May 26, 1923. H. E. BRIGHT.

Post Mortem Reports.

For Rules vide *page ii. of cover.*

April 5th. Java Sparrow (♂): T. O. Harrison, Sunderland.—Answered by post.

April 5th. Shama (♀): H. G. The Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park.—Answered by post.

April 5th. Zebra Finch (♂): H. J. Turner, Newton Abbott.—Advice given. Answered by post.

April 17th. Mexican Scaly Quail: M. R. Tomlinson, Inverness.—The bird was very emaciated; there was a very heavy injection of worms (Heterakis) in the intestines. Some birds infrequently die unexpectedly without having manifested any symptoms of disease. It was a male and not a female as you suspected.

April 20th. Superb Tanager (♂): G. E. Rattigan, Kingskerswell, Devon.—Advice given. Answered by post

April 23rd. Cactus Conure (♀), Budgerigar (♀): Mrs. M. Read, Lincolnshire.—Both birds were suffering from an acute enteritis; there was no sign of any lung trouble.

April 24th. Nonpareil Bunting (♂): Mrs. I. Calvocoressi, Liverpool.—Double pneumonia; the bird was much too fat. There was also a fatty degeneration of the liver.

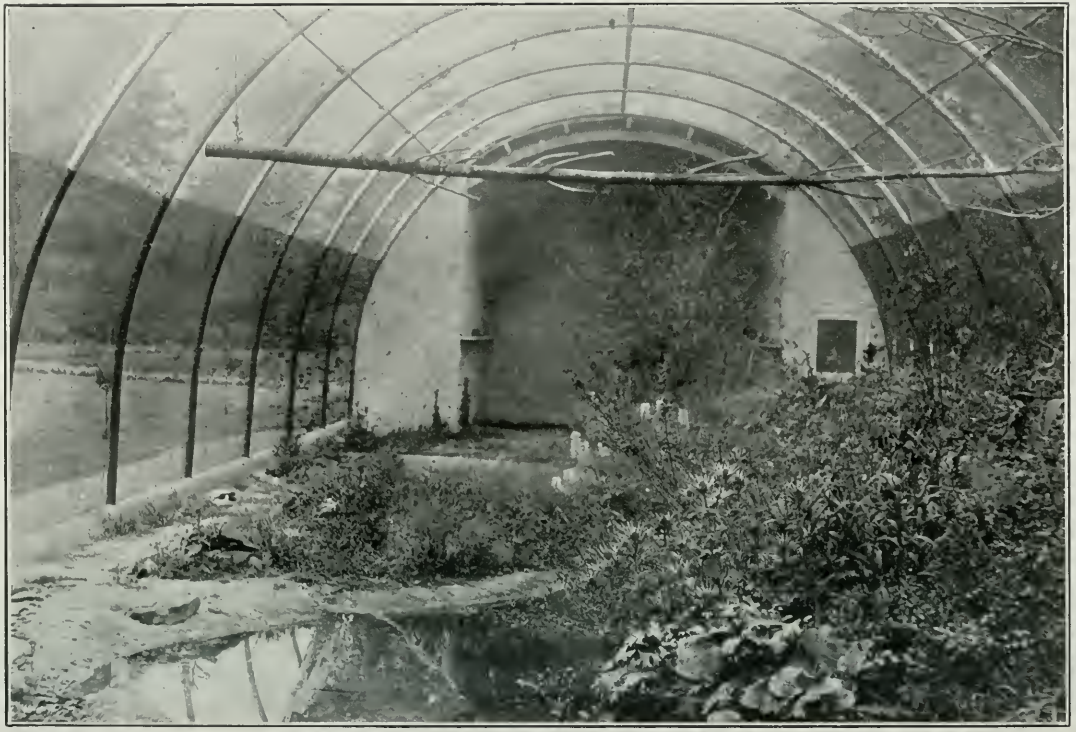
May 5th. Oyster-Catcher (♀): M. T. Tomlinson, Midlothian.—Acute disease of the kidneys (Nephritis).

May 7th. Budgerigar (♂): Walter Potts, Cheshire.—There was a rupture of the large blood vessel from the heart (aorta); the bird died of internal hæmorrhage. The heart was twice its normal size.

May 13th. Green Singingfinch: Spencer Nairne, Herts.—Answered by post.

May 18th. A. H. Barnes, East Putney, S.W.—The bird sent was a Serin Finch (♀). It died from an acute inflammation of the oviduct and cloœca, a soft-shelled egg being present.

May 28th. Shama (♀): Geo. E. Low, Kingstown, Ireland.—Advice given and answered by post.



Interior of Mr. J. D. Brunton's Aviary.

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BIRD NOTES.

THE
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Inveresk Lodge Aviary.

By M. R. Tomlinson.

By courtesy of Mr. J. D. Brunton, one of our new members, I am able to give the following particulars regarding the waders' aviary recently erected by him at his residence, Inveresk Lodge, Midlothian.

The aviary is beautifully situated in a wooded park, and, while receiving abundance of what sunlight is going, is well sheltered from the north and east by the rising ground on which the gardens are laid out, the confines of the park in other directions being bounded by large trees. A reference to the photographs will make the following description clear. The aviary is formed of half-inch mesh wire-netting, stretched on substantial iron circular-section tubular supports, solidly set in a cement kerb. This is sunk in the ground to a depth of eighteen inches, and a broad ash-path running right round the enclosure is calculated to betray any attempts by rats to burrow beneath it. The open flight is seventy-five feet long by twenty-five broad, while a shelter conforming in shape and rising to the full height—fifteen feet at the highest point—extends another thirteen feet. As will be noticed, the bottom four feet or thereabouts of the tubes is carried straight down, giving plenty of height close to the sides. The end opposite to the shelter is formed by a brick wall, behind which a small " observation house " with sliding wooden panels opening into the aviary forms a comfortable and practically invisible position for watching the doings of the birds. The photo of the interior was taken from within this house.

There is a good natural water supply, which is led into the aviary in front of the observation house, whence it falls into a tastefully designed pond of from two to three feet deep. From

this the water flows by a shallow channel into another pond. This is a favourite resort of the wading birds, being only a few inches in depth, and it is intended to plant it out with suitable vegetation to form a swamp. From this the water passes out of the aviary by a vermin-proof drain.

It will be observed that the shelter does not occupy the full width of the enclosure. Advantage has been taken of this fact to make the entrance door (seen on the right) pass into a commodious lobby with storage accommodation, at the end of which the outer door is placed.

The aviary has only been established a few months, its first inmates having been introduced on 24th December, 1922, and it will be seen that rough growth is well forward on the bank that has been thrown up for the full length, the other side—a sandy and gravelly "beach"—being kept fairly clear of growth. While the aviary is intended principally to house waders, it is by no means confined to this class of birds, and the head of the wall on both sides of the interior of the shelter is partitioned off into small compartments in which a variety of nesting receptacles are placed. A shelf similarly fitted runs across the back wall. Another pair of shelves about five feet from the ground will be seen, on which seed boxes, etc., are placed.

As has been said, the aviary is of but recent construction, and the acquisition of a representative collection of waders is a slow process. Still a wonderfully interesting and varied group have been got together in a short time, comprising:—

Knot (*Tringa canutus*).
Dunlin (*T. alpina*).
Redshank (*Totanus calidris*).
Golden Plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*).
Peewit (*Vanellus vulgaris*).
Ruffs (*Machetes pugnax*).
Oyster-Catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).
Spur-winged Plover (*Hoplopterus spinosus*).

Of these, at the time of writing, the Golden Plover are in full summer plumage, the Dunlin exhibiting in an interesting way various stages of the same dress. One of the Knots is an out-standing bird, showing the level deep salmon-brown of the nuptial plumage to perfection. The four Ruffs—importations

Exterior of Mr. J. D. Brunton's Aviary.

from Holland—show the wonderful variability of this bird in a striking way. One exhibits black ear-tufts and ruff on dark body; one white on light grey; and the others two different shades of brown on dark brown. Unfortunately no Reeves came to hand with these birds. The Spur-winged Plovers are the most recent additions to the waders, and may be described as large, somewhat obscurely coloured peewits, on extra long red legs. Two pairs of Mandarin Ducks, and Californian and Scaly Quail complete the list of birds occupying the ground area.

As stated, provision was made for the keeping of the more usual class of aviary birds, and the fine collection of finches, etc., includes the following species:—

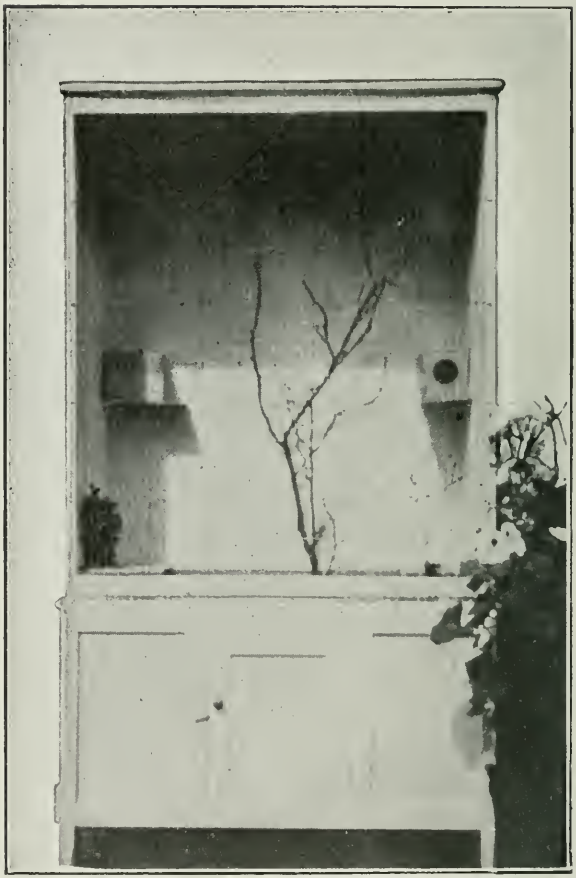
Pekin Robins (*Liothrix luteus*).
Reed Buntings (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).
Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla lugubris*).
Shore Larks (*Otocorys alpestris*).
Combasous (*Hypochoera aenea*).
Orange Weavers (*Pyromelana franciscana*).
Pintail Whydahs (*Vidua principalis*).
Paradise Whydahs (*Steganura paradisea*).
Dominican Cardinals (*Paroaria larvata*).
Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
Lavender Finches (*Lagonosticta caerula*).
Rainbow Buntings (*Cyanospiza leclancheri*).
Grey-winged Ousels (*Merula boulboul*).
Scaly Doves (*Scardafella squamosa*).
Redpolls (*Linota rufescens*).
Siskins (*Spinus spinus*).
Linnet (*Linota cannabina*).
Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europaea*).
Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).
Giant Yellow-bellied Grosbeaks.

One could write pages regarding the demeanour and varied ways of this beautiful group of birds, disporting themselves in security and what is practically freedom, but a few short notes must suffice. The nesting of any of the waders is perhaps a remote possibility, but encouraging signs have been noticed from some of the others, notably Pekin Robins, Pope Cardinals, Siskins, Redpolls, and Reed-Buntings. Indeed, the last-named have nested in a small spruce tree seen on the left near the pond. Two eggs were laid, and one young one was hatched. The parents nourished it well, hawking industriously over the water

for midges. Sad to say it disappeared when about eight days old. Suspicion fell upon a fine pair of Indian White-fronted Water-Hens, and these were caught up and interned. (In connection with this, it would be very interesting if any members could give their experience of this class of birds in a mixed collection).* Now the hen Bunting is sitting again in the same nest on four eggs, and a successful result is hoped for. The pair of Shore Larks have always hitherto been inseparable companions, and it is a promising sign that one is frequently absent, though so far it has not been discovered where it gets to. Apiarists know that the bees "do nothing invariably;" and aviarists can tell the same tale, knowing the many individual traits and idiosyncracies their birds exhibit. An interesting comedy of courtship illustrates this point, the parties concerned being the cock Bullfinch and the (compared with him) gigantic hen Yellow-bellied Grosbeak. The latter, a somewhat stolid and indifferent bird, is followed closely at all times by the gallant Bullfinch, which goes continually through a little pantomime, aptly described by an observer as "trying to snatch a kiss!" The result of such a worthy mating would be worthy of a special medal. Owing no doubt to the somewhat similar colouring the Bullfinch is extremely jealous of the male Virginian Cardinal, whom he harries unmercifully. It may be added that the male Grosbeak takes a philosophical view of the matter. One must only refer briefly to the Pheasant pens situated a short distance away in the park, in which are to be seen pairs of Silver, Golden, Reeves, and hybrid Pheasants. A few young sturdy Silvers are at present being reared by a bantam, and other eggs are incubating.

Since the above was written we are informed that the Reed Buntings have hatched out two chicks. Pope Cardinals have nested in a nest-pan in the shelter, on top of wall. Some Tufted Ducks have hatched out in the park under a hen, and a pair of Carolina Ducks have been received, but not yet turned into the aviary.—Ed.

* Would devour any fledglings or small birds they could get hold of.—Ed.



Miss M. L. Harbord's Handsome Drawing-room Cage.

Keeping and Feeding Hardbills.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(*Continued from page 84*).

Hardbills in Cages: I intended my remarks upon this point in last issue to have covered this topic, but I have, in the interim, stayed with a friend in the Lake District, and there saw a practical, plain, *handsome*, box-type drawing-room cage, and I am giving an illustration and description of same, as a confirmation of and object lesson to my remarks upon this subject; see B.N., May-June issue, pages 82-3.

Miss Harbord's description of her cage is as follows:

"My cage, of which I enclose photo, was made by our local joiner for the Drawing-room. Its demensions are: 5½ft. high, 3ft. wide, and 1½ft. deep. The wire-front section is 43in. x 36in., and the cupboard-like enclosure at bottom is 20in. x 36in. It stands on four brass legs, about 6in. high, fitted with invisible castors, thus it can easily be moved when required. Two plain brass handles at each side of lower part of cage makes it easy to carry out into the garden. In the wire front are two large doors for attendance purposes; the large door in lower part of cage allows of thorough cleaning minus dust or trouble. It is painted inside and out with white enamel paint and looks well. Young budgerigars have been reared therein. If required for smaller birds, e.g. waxbills and the like, a more closely barred wire-front is easily exchanged for the present one.—(Miss) M. L. Harbord."

The above description is a very modest one, for the above cage would adorn any room—there is no attempt at ornamentation whatever, yet a finish is given to the whole by the rounded

edges of the top and intermediate sections and the plain panelling of the lower part, and, personally, I have never seen a cage I liked better, and anyone requiring a cage for sitting- or drawing-room, could not do better than use this one as a pattern.

Owing to lack of time I must, perforce, hold over the concluding chapter (Parrots and Parrakeets) of "Keeping Hardbills" till next issue.

(*To be concluded*).

My Layard's Parrakeet
(Palœornis calthropae).

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

An expedition to New Guinea and the East, undertaken by Mr. Wilfrid Frost previous to 1914, though sadly hindered and delayed by unforeseen events, produced a few real avicultural treasures, among which the subject of this article is one of the chief.

Layard's parrakeet is, I believe, a native of some part of Ceylon, though I am open to correction on this point, and it would seem to be almost unknown in confinement, at any rate in Europe. Whether it is rare in a wild state, or whether its natural habitat is inaccessible, I do not know, but the small number of skins, even at the South Kensington Natural History Museum, rather points to the former conclusion. Certainly the scarcity of the bird is to be regretted, for it is one of the most beautiful of its genus, is easy to feed, reasonably hardy, and is capable of being made very tame. If it has a disagreeable voice, that is equally true of its common and popular relative, the Indian Ring-neck.

Layard's Parrakeet is not a large bird, slightly exceeding the Blossom-head in size. It is by no means gaudy, but the contrasts in its plumage are very pretty. The cock's head is lavender-grey which darkens almost to black under the chin and along the lower edge of each cheek, producing an effect very like that of the dark markings similarly placed in male ring-necks and Alexandrines. The breast and belly are pale hazel-green, and a more vivid green band round the nape

separates the lavender of the head from the lavender of the mantle, rump and upper wing coverts. The lower wing coverts are pale olive green with markings like shot silk, and the flights dull green with greyish inner webbing. The tail is of the usual Palaeornis type, but not very long and the two central feathers are deep violet tipped with pale green, giving a very pretty finish to the delicate shading of the rest of the plumage. The feet are of the greyish colour usual in parrakeets, and the beak is red in the male, blackish in the female, just as in the case of the Moustache and the Malabar. The inner part of the iris is dark greyish brown, but there is a narrow band of pale straw colour on the outside.

My bird was extremely tame when he arrived, and at the approach either of friends or strangers he begins to utter a shrill monotonous "Crray! Crray!" and flies up to the wire to converse with them. He has three calls; the one just mentioned, which, it must be admitted, would be rather maddening in the house, and two others, far less disagreeable. One is a low, soft "Crou-crou, crou-crou!" which he intersperses with his "Crrays!" when conversing with visitors, and uses almost entirely if the person who comes to see him is a well-known friend. His third call resembles the query "Eh?"

He is a good-tempered bird with human beings and I have never known him show a violent dislike to anyone. He has his preferences, however; he is occasionally snappy with the gardener who feeds him, but I have never known him otherwise than civil with me and my wife, and, a little affectionate talk and admiration from either of us will often start him bringing up food from his crop. If one goes into the aviary he alights on the ground close to one's feet and keeps making little, short runs in different directions, pausing for a moment at the end of each run, stretching out his neck and slightly raising his head and all the time keeping up his "Crou-crou, crou-crou!"

He has had various bird companions. First a hen Blossom-head, whom he ignored but did not appear to quarrel with. Then he lived for a time with some Budgerigars. These he would run at with open beak if they approached him closely, and, one was eventually found dead with its head badly bitten. The Layard may have been the murderer, but other birds had

been killed mysteriously by vermin in the same aviary, so it is quite possible that he was guiltless. For a time he shared his quarters with a cock Many-colour. He disliked the Many-colour at first, but in a few days' time got quite used to his presence and would tolerate his close proximity without resentment.

His last and favourite companion has been an enormous hen Guilding's Amazon, now old and short-sighted, but still lively and in magnificent plumage. The Guilding he is quite fond of, though he does not dare to attempt any great familiarities with her. She quite likes him in a superior sort of way and will share the same food dish with him. She has also learned to imitate two of his calls and it is very amusing to hear the pair saying "Eh?" to one another, the Amazon in a much louder and gruffer tone than her companion. If the Layard discovers some tit-bit he often unselfishly summons the parrot, using this call. "Eh!" he exclaims, "There's something good here" "Eh?" she replies, "Where is it? I'm coming" and come she soon does and devours the whole of what remains.

The Layard eats the ordinary seed mixture and he is fond of fruit and cake. He has spent three winters out of doors, and moults successfully and at a sensible time of year. He has, however, had two severe illnesses since I have had him and both times we nearly lost him. The first occurred soon after his arrival, and I do not know what was the cause. The second took place last May and was really due to his own stupidity, though perhaps he would say that it was due to mine! It was his custom to roost in a particular corner of the aviary next to the catching door—a little hanging door at the top left-hand corner, to which the catching box is attached when required for a bird's removal. Each corner of the aviary is covered with boards at the back, top and sides, and there are also four cosy shelters from wind and wet in the centre. I found that in some cases birds would go through the catching door more readily if that corner of the aviary was not boarded like the rest, so one day I had the boards removed from one corner of several aviaries, including the Layard's. It did not occur to me that he would fail to seek shelter in the seven other places available, but of course he chose to return to his old position, now wholly unprotected. That night it froze, rained and blew a hurricane after its usual custom this genial spring and next morning the

Layard had his head under his wing and was obviously in for a chill. I caught him and caged him in a very warm hut at a temperature of 90 degrees (even 100 degrees, I found, caused him no distress), but he did not pick up as quickly as I hoped. He was right off his food and would touch nothing but small morsels of apple when they were held up to him and his bowels were much out of order. However, when the critical third day arrived he was no worse; after that he began to pull round and in due course I returned him to the aviary, having taken the precaution to cut away the perch in the corner which had been the cause of the trouble. He was very pleased to see the Amazon again and started to display to her with the same kind of squirming action that a cock Ring-neck indulges in. She, however, did not give him a good reception, but appeared very angry and excited, either because she mistook him for a stranger or because she was offended at his desertion of her for so long a period; but she was much too clumsy to stand any chance of catching him; before long she realized this and resumed her accustomed dignity.

Notes on some Birds Observed on a Short Holiday in Holland.

By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

To a bird lover Holland is a very interesting country, but the Island of Walcheren, in which I spent a fortnight this summer, is hardly so desirable for bird study as some of the smaller islands farther north. However, it has a good golf course, and, as I had my wife with me, this, of course, was one of its attractions.

The following short notes on the birds seen may be of interest:

June 1st: Took a stroll along the beach, saw a pair of Oyster-Catchers and a few Herring Gulls. No small waders to be seen.

June 2nd: On the golf links. Many Doves, also a few Larks and Pipits and two Cuckoos were seen.

June 3rd: Took a long walk through the woods. These

extend for nearly five miles parallel with the sandhills, and are about half a mile wide. They consist principally of small oaks, birches, and sycamores, with a few conifers; in places there are rhododendrons and other shrubs. These woods were beautifully sheltered from the north and east winds, and were literally swarming with bird life. I have never seen so many Blackbirds and Thrushes, or heard so many Warblers in a morning's walk. Amongst the birds noted were Redstarts, Wood Wrens, Whitethroats and Nightingales. We found a nest of the latter bird containing three young ones and one egg. It was built, close to the ground in a bramble, mainly of oak leaves. The old birds were very agitated whilst we were near the nest. The alarm call of the cock was very loud and piercing, and I should never have recognised it as coming from so small a bird.

June 4th: On the golf links all day. Saw a flock of brown-headed bunting-like birds, that I could not identify; also several Whinchats. Found a Lark's nest with young.

June 5th: On the golf links again. A pair of Magpies flew across, apparently a common bird on the island. Flushed a pair of Partridges. Saw many Doves feeding on the links; also pairs of Yellow and Pied Wagtails.

June 6th: A rough day. Found a Willow Wren's nest on the lawn. A Pied Wagtail had young in the creeper covering the verandah, and a Greenfinch was busy building in the same creeper, immediately over the sliding door. In the afternoon took a walk in the woods. Noted Carrion Crows, Jays, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Wood Pigeons, Stock Doves, Wood Wrens, Common Wrens, and Great Tits. The Woodpeckers and Jays suffered a very near approach, which they will not do in this country.

June 7th: Walked inland. The whole island is a perfect garden. Not a yard of ground wasted, and hardly a weed to be seen. Both the holdings and the fields themselves are small; the latter are bounded by narrow ditches. These are sometimes not more than forty yards apart, and one rarely sees a field more than one hundred yards wide. I wondered how they managed their partridge shooting. It would be impossible to follow the birds, unless one were accompanied by a man carrying a portable bridge. On this walk I saw several pairs

of Partridges, also several of the brown-headed buntings already mentioned. A Grey Shrike permitted a very close approach. Possibly its mate was sitting in a clump of trees surrounding a near-by farmhouse. Found a Whinchat's nest with four eggs, under a bunch of dead spire grass; also saw Yellow-hammers, Sedge Warblers, several Cuckoos, and a single Kestrel.

June 8th: On the golf links. After the game I watched the birds through field glasses. Noted Whinchats, Willow Wrens, and White-throats feeding young, but failed to locate their nests.

June 9th: Took a cycle ride to the East Coast of the Island. This is a capital way to see the Island, as nearly all the roads have cycle paths, and the country is, of course, as flat as a table. On the way we flushed three Mallard from a pond, and, whilst skirting the Dunes, saw a pair of Shellducks flying low. They probably had a nest in one of the rabbit holes. After a seven or eight mile ride we mounted the dyke that keeps the Schelte from inundating the Island . Here the nature of the sea front was quite different, mud and stones taking the place of the sand on the north shore. Waders were quite numerous—principally Redshanks and Curlews. There were also many Black-headed Gulls and Terns. On the canal at Veere I saw a Little Tern at very close range. It was the first I had seen, and I was charmed with it. It was taking some kind of small fish. On our return journey we went more inland, but noted no birds of especial interest.

June 10th: Walked along the sand dunes. In the surf, close in, a male Scoter was fishing. He was presently joined by another pair, who, however, kept a hundred yards or so farther out. I could not make out to what species they belonged. A pair of Shell Ducks flying out from behind a sand hill induced me to look for their nest, but my search was not successful. A little later I was rewarded by finding a Wheatear's nest, containing three newly-hatched young ones. These were in a rabbit hole about two feet from the surface. Other birds seen were Stock Doves (probably breeding in the rabbit holes), Wood Pigeons, Carrion Crows, Pipits and Linnets.

June 11th: Rode on cycles to the South Coast—about twenty miles. This was the Schelte, blocked on the east by

the dyke that carries the railway and road to the mainland. The fore shore was like our English saltings, and the river bed was mud. Upon this mud Redshanks, Curlew, Black-headed Gulls, and Terns were walking and feeding. I also saw a small lot of duck, but too far off to identify. I was told that there is good wild-fowl shooting here in the winter. On the dyke a pair of Quail were calling, and, on looking for these I flushed a pair of Red-legged Partridges. On our return we passed a small pond on the inner side of the sea-wall on which two Redshanks and an Avocet were feeding. The latter bird, which was the only one I saw in Holland, passed within easy gunshot as it made its way out to sea. The Redshanks were joined by their mates, and a noisy chorus they kept up. I think that they both had nests in the long grass around the pond, and I have no doubt that I could have found them if I had had time. A Heron, feeding in a ditch, was the only other bird of interest noticed on this trip.

June 12th: Another long walk through the woods. The first new bird noted was a Little Owl, which was not at all wild. A much rarer bird, of which I got a glimpse in song, was a Blue-Throat, and later on I saw for a few moments a pair of Golden Orioles. They flew into the thick woods, and I was unable to follow their flight. A visit to the Nightingale's nest showed that the young had flown, but from the noise the old birds were making in a near-by thicket I don't think they had gone far. When searching for another of these bird's nests, later in the day, I flushed a wild duck from a nest of seven eggs, but failed to find that of the Nightingale's. Saw a Redstart cock feeding a strong young one. These are common birds in the woods.

June 13th: Last visit to the links. The young Larks had left the nest. The usual birds were seen, also a single Kestrel. Birds of prey are scarce on the Island, at any rate at this time of year, but the Magpies, Jays, Jackdaws, and Crows, keep the smaller birds from increasing too fast, I expect. Strange to say, in spite of the numerous ditches, I never saw a Coot, Moorhen, or Dabchick in Walcheren. Neither did I see the English Hedge Sparrow.

June 14th: By rail to Amsterdam, through typical Dutch country. Saw a good many Duck, in pairs and singles, also

numerous Redshanks and Lapwings, but on a five hours' journey, during which we passed innumerable ponds and canals, I only saw one Coot and two Moorhens. In England, in similar country, you see hundreds. This lack of water-fowl seems extraordinary. The only other bird noted was an occasional Heron. The scarcity of this latter bird is, I suppose, due to the lack of suitable breeding quarters in Holland.

June 15th: In Amsterdam. Visited the Zoo. They have a very fine collection of Parrots. The Water-fowl also were good. I noticed particularly a large flock of Barnacle Geese, which were very tame. I was too late to see much of the small birds, as their houses are closed to the public at 5 p.m.

June 16th: A trip to the Island of Marken in the Zuyder Zee. A few Herring Gulls, Black-headed Gulls and Cormorants were the only birds seen on the outward journey. The Island of Marken is about three or four miles square and has a population of about 1,400. It is below sea level—is a most unattractive spot. It has apparently no bird life, and, of course, no trees or bushes. On the return journey I noticed both Common and Little Terns, also a flock of five Spoonbills, which crossed the stern of the vessel as we were running up the Amsterdam river. I could also hear Curlews on the river banks.

June 18th: Left for Belgium. Saw a good many Wild Ducks, mostly Mallards. Noticed the same lack of Dabchicks, Coots and Moorhens as on the journey up. Just after passing the river Maas—a fine river over a mile wide with a wide belt of reeds on either bank—I saw a Black Stork rise from a meadow within one hundred yards of the railway. This, I should think, was a rare bird in the country. Strange to say, I saw no White Storks except in the Amsterdam Zoo.

A Few Experiments with Foreign Birds at Liberty.

By Capt. G. E. Rattigan, F.Z.S.

As a preface, I regret to have to confess that my attempts at establishing foreign birds at liberty have been rather monotonously unsuccessful, and will, I fear, afford small encouragement in themselves to those who may be inclined to

try their luck at this, in the writer's opinion, most interesting branch of aviculture. As is well known, however, others, notably our member the Marquis of Tavistock, have met with a very fair measure of success.

My first venture in this direction was an experiment carried out some few years ago with a pair of Virginian Cardinals. I was living at that time in Wales and had control of a good stretch of the surrounding country, which made things much easier, for neither the human nor the feline beasts of prey had to be reckoned with. The birds stayed well, and the cock, as may be readily imagined, was a joy to behold as it dashed about the garden, a gorgeous splash of flaming crimson against the surrounding greenery. He was of the small southern race, very much richer and more brilliant in colour than its relatives farther north, and what is, perhaps, rather unexpected, much the better songster of the two. Early mornings and late evenings he would mount to the summit of a tall Scotch fir, about seventy yards from my bedroom window, and remain in full view, a most conspicuous object. From thence until quite dark he would serenade us with his clear, melodious ringing notes—a picture that will not easily fade from the mind. The hen very soon went to nest, and for a time my hopes were of the rosiest. Three chicks were hatched, and the nest being beautifully constructed, well protected from the weather and snugly hidden amongst a dense mass of ivy and virginia creeper, I regarded success as assured. Such, however, was not to be, for on the eleventh morning after hatching I found the nest empty and not a trace to be seen of either the old hen or the young. Rats or a stoat were the presumed murderers in this case. The cock still remained about the garden for some weeks after this, and, apparently soon forgetting his murdered family, he proceeded to make desperate advances upon a second hen in one of the aviaries until finally caught up again.

Last year I tried again, liberating on this occasion five Rufous-necked Weavers (two cocks and three hens), three Orange Bishops (one cock, two hens), and a pair of Barbary Doves. All these birds stayed well. The first to disappear was the hen Barbary Dove which vanished without trace about three weeks later, upon which the cock was caught up. About six weeks later only a pair of Rufous-necked Weavers and the

Orange Bishops remained. There can be but little doubt that all the missing met with violent ends. These large weavers (the Rufous-necks) in their brilliant livery of gold, orange and black, are strikingly beautiful birds when seen flashing through the sunlight with their peculiar soaring kind of flight, and were mistaken by many visitors and others for Golden Orioles. Nests were constructed by these industrious little workers all over the garden, and most interesting to witness were the displays of the cock birds, swaying backwards and forwards frequently in an upside-down position, with quivering wings slowly opening and closing whilst all the time pouring forth their curious harsh grating song in a perfect frenzy of excitement. This song, though wretched enough from a musical standpoint, has yet some weird and fascinating quality about it. At the end of June only one pair of these weavers still remained, and no serious attempt at nesting had taken place. This pair had taken up a position in a high bay tree or bush just in front of our bedroom window, and, whether as a mere coincidence or not, just above a beehive. I mention this as a point of interest, because it is said that in Africa these birds frequently construct their nests in the close proximity of a particularly touchy species of hornet. Two or three nests were constructed here, but what roused my interest was the fact that the hen was beginning to get busy herself, and made frequent visits to a certain one of them. Soon after this I discovered that she was incubating, and in due course the young hatched out. The cock meanwhile took himself off to the back of the house, where he remained busy all day constructing innumerable half-finished nests in some thick bushes behind the aviaries. In the early morning, however, he was always to be seen and heard around the nest in the bay bushes, and again in the evening he would always accompany the hen on her journeys to and fro from the nest to the feeding table, situated at the back of the house. When the young hatched they were almost entirely reared by the hen alone, the cock only making occasional visits to the nursery, more, I fancy, for the purpose of ascertaining that all was well, than with any idea of helping to give nourishment to the youngsters. Early one fine July morning the youngsters made their exit into the world, and though I myself did not actually see them go, they were seen later on the same day busily at

work on a near-by field of ripening corn. The old hen accompanied by two youngsters were frequently about later, but towards the end of the moult (July) all vanished completely, nor have I seen anything of them since, though reports, that they had been seen in various different parts of the district, continued to come to hand for some little time. The cock remained about the garden for some three weeks after the others had departed, then suddenly one afternoon he also disappeared.

The Orange Bishops stayed on well, though so far as I am aware no serious attempt at rearing a family was made, this being possibly due to the fact that the cock went out of colour soon after being liberated. By the middle of September, however, all had vanished and so ended the second experiment.

My next and last venture was with some Green Cardinals, a pair of Barbary Doves, and a cock Barbary mated to a hen Half-collared Dove. These birds were liberated about the end of March of this year. The pair of Barbarys went to nest in a few days' time, and this in spite of the atrocious weather conditions obtaining at that time. An absurd apology for a nest was made consisting of a few pine needles and small twigs, which were deposited at random on a low branch of a fir tree in the small shrubbery surrounding the garden. I did not at all like the situation chosen—about three feet off the ground and easily accessible both to rats and cats. I did not disturb them, however, fearing that if I did an even worse position would in all probability be selected, and the present one at all events was in a well sheltered spot. All went well till the chicks had safely hatched, and were about ten days old and feathering nicely when on inspecting the nest I found that both the hen and young had all vanished. The mixed pair also went to nest about this time in what appeared to me to be a fairly safe position, the nest being fairly well made for a dove and some fifteen feet off the ground. Eggs were duly deposited, and incubation proceeded smoothly for six days when the hen was found to be missing, and the eggs smashed beneath the tree. Meanwhile the cock Barbary of the first pair had also disappeared, so I caught up the sole survivor and returned it to an aviary where it is now paired up to a second hen Half-collar, so far without any result. The pair of Green Cardinals did not settle down to business for some considerable time, but very charming they

looked flying about the garden and surrounding country. They rambled off to consdierable distances and were sometimes seen near the railway, about a mile from here. The cock was the first to come to business and constructed a nest entirely on his own in a hole under the gables of a large outhouse about 20ft. from the ground. It was a long while, however, before he could induce the hen to take any interest in his labours. At long last, however, virtue had its reward, and the hen herself commenced to make provision for the needs of a prospective family. Instead, however, of finishing off the practically completed nest built with so much painstaking labour by her mate, she, to his manifest dismay, and with true feminine perversity (my apologies to lady readers), selected an altogether different site at the top of a dead ivy-covered tree about thirty feet from the ground. Having completed this nest, she, rather to my relief, for this tree formed one of the favourite stalking haunts of a beastly black cat, evidently deciding that the position was not quite to her liking or being persuaded by her mate that the one chosen by him was in every way more desirable, she deserted it and began to put the finishing touches to the cock's nest—a move which in any case highly delighted this worthy. Incidentally, it is worthy of remark that on every occasion, both when at liberty and in the aviary, I have noticed that whilst the cock is invariably the first to commence nesting operations, no sooner does the hen begin to exert herself in this direction than the cock forthwith declines to take any further part in them, merely contenting himself with keeping a sharp look out from some commanding point of vantage for possible danger, and enlivening the labours of the hen with his continuous singing—joyous music which makes up in the wild abandon of its expression for what it lacks in other respects. Three eggs were laid and all seemed well when the hen was apparently once again seized with a spirit of restlessness, for she suddenly abandoned the eggs, and on the next day recommenced nesting operations, selecting as a site this time almost the top of a gigantic elm tree, sixty or seventy feet from the ground. Four days later she disappeared, a victim, probably, to some hawk or owl. Having a spare hen bred by me from another pair last season I now released this bird, whereupon the cock, a most forlorn looking figure up to this moment, went frantic with delight, and after a

great display of affection towards his new mate, he proceeded to guide her in a wide circle around the limits of his domain. A fortnight or so later this hen commenced relining a deserted Missel Thrush's nest near the summit of an oak tree, and in due course three eggs were laid, and incubation commenced. After she had been sitting steadily for about a week I noticed one day that the cock was looking rather off colour and had become strangely silent. Late that evening, whilst returning to its roost after a final feed at the feeding table, I saw it suddenly falter in its flight and next moment fall as though shot. On hurrying to the spot and picking him up I found him gasping for breath and obviously suffering from a severe attack of pneumonia. I did all I could for him, and, as so frequently happens in such cases, he appeared to improve a good deal for a time, but this improvement was quickly followed by a relapse, and in spite of all my efforts he succumbed four days later. The hen meanwhile was steadily incubating and only left her duties at long intervals for a hurried meal. She was much distressed and worried over the disappearance of her mate, but as she called to and was answered by the cock of the second pair, which I had in an aviariy in the large barn, I hoped that she would conclude that her own mate was still in the neighbourhood and would not desert the nest. This, in fact, she did not do, but two days before the eggs were due to hatch I missed her, and, fearing the worst, climbed up to the nest to investigate. My worst fears were unhappily realised, for I found all the eggs broken, but not a sign of the bird itself was to be seen. This occurred just ten days ago, and I have not seen anything of her since, so that the only conclusion is that she has shared the fate of hen number one. My experiences, such as they are, lead me to the reluctant conclusion that this locality is unfavourable for experiments of this nature. The surrounding country is not properly preserved, and as a consequence hawks, owls, stray cats, stoats, weasels, and last, but not least, rats are very numerous; but to anyone favourably situated I can warmly recommend Green Cardinals as subjects for turning out. The cock especially is a most showy bird, and he evidently knows this, for he invariably selects the most conspicuous and commanding positions from which to serenade his mate, and always advertises his arrival in any spot by the extraordinary noise, for so small a

bird, he makes in flight with his wings. Anyone who has kept these birds in a fair-sized garden aviary must have noticed this peculiarity in the flight of the cock, especially during the breeding season, and there can be little doubt, I think, that it forms a part of the sexual display of these birds. These Cardinals are strong, masterful birds, and more than a match for Starlings, Sparrows and other quarrelsome-natured birds of anything approaching their own size; they are not, however, particularly hardy, and would have to be caught up and housed under shelter during the winter months, though no actual artificial heat is necessary for their welfare.

Birds on Long Island.

By Albert F. Gilmore.

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In previous papers I have spoken of annual visits to the eastern end of Long Island, where I have found many varieties of birds, songsters and shore birds as well. This year, mid-July was the time selected for the excursion, and the experience has been, as always, replete with satisfaction. No summer would seem altogether complete that did not bring me in touch with certain of my favourite birds, among which are the Bobwhite, Wood Thrush and the Piping Plover. These, and many others, I find in a retired spot on Noyac Bay, not far from Sag Harbour, toward the eastern end of Long Island. This year I have not been disappointed, for all three are here and have been observed under favourable circumstances.

Some bird lovers hold the Wood Thrush to be the best singer of this tuneful family, and his notes are, indeed, of excellent quality, melodious, and of a character that quite defies description in words. To be appreciated his song must be heard. This is the dominant thrush in the deep woods here, and I hear him in the early morning and toward nightfall, and on cloudy days at all hours. The Wood Thrush is the largest of the family except the Robin, and may be readily identified by his size, and the large brown spots on his breast and sides. The body is a plain medium-toned brown, not so bright as the

Veerie, and more distinctly brown than the Olive-backed Thrush. No one living within the summer range of the Wood Thrush need feel that he is deprived of bird music of high order. The Hermit alone is his superior.

Bobwhite, being an all the year denizen of this locality, is always in evidence. Although each autumn the flocks are sadly depleted by the gun of the hunter, a remnant is left and they nest behind the little cottage, where my friends always offer me true hospitality. At daybreak each morning the emphatic notes, "bobwhite, bob, bobwhite," punctuate the melodious measures of the bird chorus. The call is as characteristic as that of the Whippoorwill at evening, and possesses a charm all its own.

While Quail are found in portions of Massachusetts and other parts of the southern portion of New England, I come here to observe them in preference to any nearer locality, and always with the assurance of finding them close at hand. At intervals throughout the day they are heard from the near-by fence posts, or low bushes; yet they are rarely seen unless one makes a special trip into the fields and pastures for that purpose; then one seldom finds them until in rapid flight they retreat to a convenient cover of bushes. The sentiment for the protection of these beautiful and altogether valuable birds will sometime grow into a successful movement to protect them throughout the year. Then they will become so plentiful again as to be of substantial help to the farmer in protecting his crops from the rapidly increasing hosts of noxious insects.

Bobwhite makes a strong ally to the farmer when he is given a chance for his life. While gratitude should be expressed for the increasing sentiment in favour of the protection of all our birds, Bobwhite should not be left out of this favoured circle; for he is both an interesting and useful bird, and as a game bird his little body is, at most, but a morsel.

That dainty little waif of the shore, of which I have spoken before, the Piping Plover, is still here, although I found but a single pair, and they were extremely shy. Long before I came up to them, they took wing; but their plaintive piping notes are unmistakable, and as they fly their white wings and under parts are so characteristic as to render their identity certain. I know

of no other shore bird which in colour is so much like a snowflake of the winter fields, although their flight is quite different. Apparently this Plover is barely holding its own against the hunter, and unless strenuous measures are taken to protect them they will surely go the way of other dainty and delightful birds whch have nearly or quite disappeared. It is a false sense of sportsmanship that would carry the destruction of our native birds and animals to the point of extermination.

There are many other birds in this favoured locality, which combines, in a way not often found, the advantages of seashore and country. Always there are quantities of gulls and terns, sandpipers, kingfishers, bitterns, blue herons, both the great and the lesser; quawks, or night herons, and numerous ospreys, of whose low-built nests I have frequently written. These varieties in a few weeks will be increased by many other shore birds which come down from the north, for this is a favourite highway for the spring and fall migrants. Then the hunters will appear, and the crack of the shotgun will take the place of the plaintive and lonesome cries, which at this season make a trip along the shore so intensely interesting.

This morning, as I was quietly walking along the highway through a patch of second growth thickly studded with underbrush, sharp call notes of a bird caused me to halt, and a brief inspection revealed a mother Black-throated Green Warbler feeding her full-grown youngster, full grown not alone in body but in appetite, as observation soon revealed. For during the brief time I was a spectator to this domestic ceremony, the sprightly mother fed an extraordinary number of worms to the greedy youngster. And its appetite, apparently, did not lose even its edge. Oliver Twist's demand for "more" could scarcely have been more insistent than the constant and emphatic call of this voracious fledgling. And all the tme I watched them the mother flew about seemingly in greatest haste, returning to the young bird every moment or two with a struggling worm. She gleaned the top branches of a sumac tree, destroying the worms that were at work upon the foliage. What valuable allies of the farmer and the orchardman the birds are! If all could see what the birds do for mankind, how easy it would be to secure their protection!

As I watched the warblers, presently a flock of Chickadees came drifting through the tangle, a bit excited when they saw me, their calls indicating both alarm and curiosity. The parent birds were convoying a half dozen youngsters, and they, too, were gleaning worms and ants for food. Their excited cries attracted a pair of Towhees which added their chee-wink, chee-wink, towheé-towheé to the chorus of curiosity. Presently a pair of Maryland Yellow-throats joined the party, all intent upon investigating the intruder. Chipping sparrows joined in, and a Black-billed Cuckoo stopped to see what it was all about; but this silent bird made no protest. Not so, however, with a Catbird which came hurrying up, to be followed a moment later by a male Redstart, his brilliant orange adding a lovely bit of colour to the party.

Here were half a dozen varietes, all showing a lively interest in the stranger in their domain. It seemed a pity to longer disturb the quest for the morning meal and I withdrew, listening to the distant song of the Wood Thrush, rising and falling in cadences clear and melodious.

The ospreys on Jessup's Neck, a long sand spit with a heavily wooded headland, which separates Little Peconic and Noyac bays, are again occupying the nests where I have found them for many years. By adding fresh sticks, the nest is annually renewed, a process which continually adds to its height. Some nests that were mere platforms when I first found them, are now several feet high. Some of the nests are scarcely ten feet from the ground, while others are located in the tops of the cedars which are plentiful along the shore. Several of the nests are surrounded with woodbines, which make a picturesque and beautiful site for the domestic affairs of these interesting birds. Ospreys are erroneously classified with hawks, probably because of their common name fishhawk; but they belong in a family or suborder by themselves. While they are rightly placed in the order of Raptores, or birds of prey, they have no close relatives.

My Aviaries—1923 Notes

By The Lady Dunleath.

Results: These have been pretty good so far (July 28), the following having been successfully reared:

Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*)—9.
Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)—15.
Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*)—4.
Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*)—12 or more.
Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*)—several.
Palm Doves (*Turtur senegalensis*)—8 from one pair.
Bullfinches (*Pyrrhula europaea*)—6.
Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*)—6.
Cutthroats (*A. fasciata*)—6.
Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*)—6.

The above were all reared out of doors.

The Budgerigars are of two colour varieties, viz: Green and Yellow.

Zebra Finches commenced nesting at the end of February. They built a nest, like a wren's, in thick ivy. I started with two pairs, and both are again incubating clutches of eggs. Most of the young birds are now in adult plumage, but I saw four yesterday (July 27) still with blackish beaks.

Californian Quail: Eleven were hatched out, but two escaped and three died, and the remaining six do not look any too well. They are in a large run with a bantam, and we feed them on Partridge Food and seeds; they have plenty of sand and are on short grass. Can any of my readers suggest a better method of feeding? If so, I should be glad if they would describe same.* Four or five young Californian Quail escaped three or four years ago—now there are two coveys in this neighbourhood, of six and seven respectively. Our keeper has seen these—the farmer sent for him to tell him what they could be—I am glad to say that they are so interested in them that they do not shoot them.

We have heard of some in a wild and heathery bog about

* I usually have reared quail without difficulty on insectile mixture (Spratt's C.L.O. & C.B. food, fine ground crissel and ants' eggs), live ants' eggs and seed.—W.T.P.

three miles away; others have been reported ten miles away, and still others thirty miles away, across Strangford Lough, but these, of course, I cannot vouch for.

Tragedy: The rest of my story is, alas! tragedy. The day before yesterday I missed my beautiful Pope Cardinal and instituted a search through the aviary for it. Amid a mass of long tangled grass, to my horror, we found a dozen or more wings of young birds, chiefly budgerigars, in runs all through the grass; so we gently drove all the birds into the cottage-shelter—then we put the terrier in the flight, who soon found his way to a very rotten log, containing a number of holes. In the topmost one a Cockateel was incubating six eggs; the terrier was very excited, and, barking loudly, after about half an hour, he dislodged a rat from a hole in the log just underneath where the Cockateel was sitting—it took another half hour to catch him, for he ran up the wire and jumped about the bushes like a squirrel. The wire netting of the aviary is sunk in two feet of concrete, so no rat can get in from underneath; the wire netting is, however, twenty-five years old, and I am afraid that some of the branches swayed by the wind may have made a hole somewhere, as yet undiscovered. We have cut all the grass short, but found no trace of another rat, nor yet any hole of ingress, so the matter remains at present an unsolved mystery. All this refers to number three division of my aviary where I keep Whydahs, Weavers, Saffron Finches, Cardinals, Glossy Starling, Pekin Robins and Baya Cowbird—all live amicably together.

In number two division I keep Waxbills (several species), Siskins, Singingfinches, Pekin Robins and a Combasou, which also agree together perfectly.

In number one division there are Pekin Doves, Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Red-headed Finches, Cutthroats, Snow Buntings and a Shore Lark.

There are a good many mice in the aviary, but we keep these down by means of the poison box.

Outside in the Park: Here, by the pond, I have about five acres wired in, consisting of woodland, grass and water, and within this enclosed space (no wire over top) live 1 Great Stork, 2 Egrets, 1 Little Egret, 3 Crested Screamers, and 1 pair

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Hartlaub's Weaver and Nest.

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Hartlaub's Weaver and Nest.

each Ceriopsis, Egyptian, and Canadian Geese, the last named with three goslings; also 1 pair each Wigeon, Mallard, Mandarin, Pintail, and Formosa Ducks.

All my disasters have not yet been told: I got a Vet. in from Belfast to pinion the four Storks and same number of Egrets, with the result that three of the Storks and one Egret died as the result of the operation—the Vet. did not tie up the arteries properly, and when they flapped their wings the blood burst out—he was dreadfully sorry and upset about it and offered at once to replace them, but, of course, I could not allow him to do this. With great difficulty I managed to save one Stork and three Egrets, which are now all in beautiful pulmage.

The Nesting of Hartlaub's Weaver.

(*Xanthops hartlaubi*).

By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

This is one of the yellow-headed Hyphantornine weavers, and comes from Angola. This spring Mr. Chapman had a consignment of birds from this part of Africa, and amongst them were a number of these birds, together with some smaller Weavers that I have not yet identified. I secured two or three pairs of each species and have now had them two or three months in my aviaries. Although very many nests have been built, only one pair has actually gone to nest up to the time of writing. The nest was of the usual type and was suspended over the water. About the middle of May three eggs were laid, rather long ovals and pale unspotted blue. These proved to be infertile, so I removed them, substituting a clutch of Goldfinch's eggs. These duly hatched out, but I am unable to say how long they lived, as at this time I went for my holiday. On my return after a month I found that the hen was again incubating. Two days later one young bird was hatched; the other two eggs were clear. The young squab was flesh-coloured and bare of down. It was fed by the hen only. As the nest was in a large aviary with other birds, it was impossible to supply live food, so the hen had to depend on seed and bread and milk, besides what live insects she could catch, and this diet evidently proved insufficient, as on examining the nest after ten days I found the young one dead, evidently from insufficient nourishment. As far as I could judge from its

imperfectly grown feathers it would have closely resembled its mother in plumage, had it survived. The cock is still busy nest-building, and it is just possible that they may yet go to nest this season with happier results.

A Breeding Success in a Small Aviary.

By The Rev. R. H. McCall.

Those members of the Foreign Bird Club who have large ranges of aviaries, and who think nothing of breeding successfully this, that, or the other rare species, are not intended to read this humble article. It is written rather as an encouragement to the novice, and keeper of birds on a small scale, who may be tempted to think that, unless you have a wilderness aviary large enough to house an elephant, you cannot hope for success in breeding anything except Zebra Finches.

The enclosed photographs show the small aviary which I made last summer, after much cogitation based on advice kindly given by the Editor, and a careful perusal of the various articles on aviaries in Bird Notes. The house is 12½ft. long, 6½ft. wide, and 8ft. high. The flight is 12½ft. square and 9ft. high. The whole is strongly made in sections, and although at present somewhat ugly, it will be less so when the creepers planted round it have grown up. The roof of the house is matchboard covered with felt, and over that (with a free air space in between) corrugated iron. At the bottom of the left hand window there is a small sliding shutter through which can be withdrawn the food tray and water dish.

Having made the aviary entirely myself I am naturally proud of it, but, at least, I can claim that it appears to serve its purpose, for the whole of the birds in it are in beautiful condition.

The aviary contains the usual mixed collection of Waxbills, etc., and two cock Queen Whydahs, which live together without any serious breaches of the peace. A number of nests have been built, but there, for the most part, the matter seems to end.

The exception, however, has been provided by a pair of Fire Finches. These had a nest with five eggs in May, which were patiently sat upon without result. In due course I examined them and found all infertile. On this occasion they adopted a

Front and Side Views of Rev. R. H. McCall's Aviary.

rest which had been built by some Blue-breasted Waxbills. For their second venture the Fire Finches built their own nest in a dead Retinospora. I so little anticipated any result that I gave them no attention, and when after a time I noticed that they were no longer incubating, I went into the aviary, expecting to find more infertile eggs, but instead I was surprised to hear a faint squeak. I heard and saw nothing further until last Saturday (August 4th), when I was suddenly aware of new voices in the aviary, and discovered three young Fire Finches flying strongly about. All three have at present the colouring of the hen.

It may be of interest to mention that I suffered some losses in the early summer, which I attribute to a cock Orange Bishop which was introduced at that time. I noticed a tendency on his part to chase the smaller birds, especially in the early morning. After finding a hen Blue-breast Waxbill and a pair of Silverbills dead with damaged skulls, and a Grey Singingfinch with a disabled wing, I came to the conclusion that the Orange Bishop was the cause of the trouble, and removed him to a small enclosure by himself, and have not had any losses since.

Editorial.

Nesting Notes.—In many aviaries results have not been good, and in many instances it has only been recent later results that have redeemed the season from absolute failure.

In Mr. H. E. Bright's aviaries there have been many nests but very few successes.

With Young in Nest, Etc.—Indigo Bunting mated to Nonpareil Bunting were feeding on July 27th. Also an Indigo Bunting (♂) mated to a Rainbow Bunting have built a "charming nest," no eggs yet, or they have been taken.—Mr. Bright writes that this year there is some, as yet undiscovered, nest robber, and many clutches of eggs have mysteriously disappeared—the nests built by these two pairs of *Cyanospiza* are similar in having a lot of cotton-wool spread all round the nest and dropped about the shrub, but one nest is constructed of hay and horsehair (more like our Garden Warbler's); the other is formed of bark and horsehair and looks very like a tiny half cocoanut.

Baltimore Hangnests nested and laid a clutch of eggs, but these were taken (disappeared); now they have moulted, so I suppose they have finished for this season.

Lilac-crowned Fruit Pigeons have nested twice, but on both occasions their eggs disappeared after a few days' incubation—apparently they are going to nest again.

My White-breasted Doves have nested three times, but in impossible places, and on each occasion their eggs got broken.

In Mr. H. L. Sich's aviaries (small ones) there have been many interesting attempts, but only a few results.

The only actual result was three young hybrids from Indian Silverbill (♂) and Zebra Finch (♀)—these hybrids ought to be pretty birds with nice contrasting plumage pattern.

Help Wanted: Mr. Sich has had bad luck with his Gouldian Finches. He bought a pair in the spring, then lost the hen, procured another very fine one; a little later the cock went wrong and is wasting away, and he has no hope of saving him. If any member has an an acclimatised cock Gouldian Finch they can spare will they offer it to Mr. Sich at once? Mr. Sich also has two hen Cherry Finches: Can any member either sell him a cock or exchange one for a hen? Mr. Sich has tried all trade sources without success.

Post Mortem Reports.

JUNE.

June 2nd. Cordon Blue (♂): Mrs. A. Chatterton, Ruislip.—There was an injury to the left lung, causing hæmorrhage into the body; its condition was also poor.

June 27th. Whydah (♂): L. G. Pike, Esq., Dorset.—Answered by post.

JULY.

Gouldian Finch: Evelyn Sprawson, Esq., M.R.C.S.

Gouldian Finch: Mrs. M. A. Grossmith.

Gouldian Finch: H.G. the Duchess of Wellington.

Shama: H.G. the Duchess of Wellington.

Blue Jay: H. Whitley, Esq.

Canary: Mrs. A. Johnson Travers.

Fruitsucker: Geo. E. Low, Esq.

All the above reports were answered by post.

Cordon Blue: W. Salkeld, Esq.—There was a good deal of bruising on the skull, with a clot of blood in the brain; the bird was otherwise in good condition and not excessively fat.

Cordon Blue: Mrs. A. Chatterton.—Acute congestion of both lungs.

C. H. HICKS.

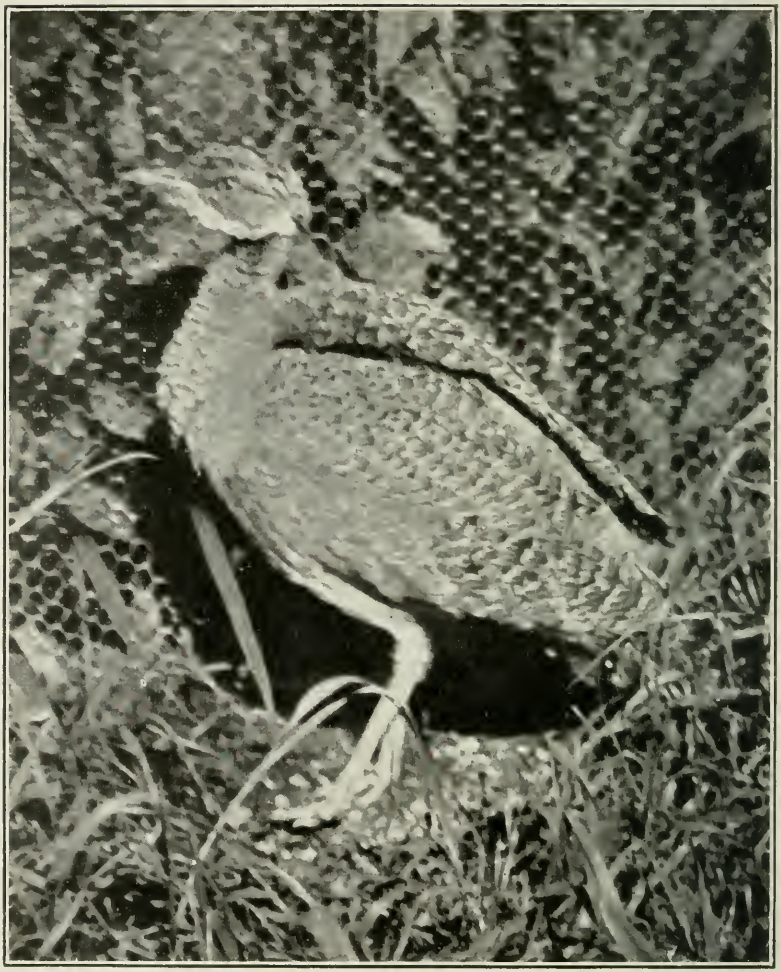

Photo by E. O. Page.

The Little Bustard.

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BIRD NOTES.

THE
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Little Bustard.
(Otis tetrax).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

This charming bird came into my possession in 1922 as a gift from my friend and fellow member, Mr. G. Falkner. It was then quite juvenile, though fully grown; time has proved it to be a female, and I hope I may get a mate for it in the near future. Mr. Falkner brought it back with him from a short visit to British East Africa.

Ever since its arrival it has been a great favourite with me; it is very tame, and could easily be trained to follow one about like a dog.

It is easily catered for, eats earth worms greedily, and bolts a medium-sized mouse whole after killing it. The menu provided for it consists of moistened biscuit meal, such as is given to poultry, which contains crissel as a morning meal, and in the evening mixed poultry corn, and it thrives thereupon, and is in the pink of condition.

It has no gaudy colouration, but is a beautiful arrangement of sandy-brown and buff, very finely pencilled with darker brown; the plumage of the back and wings blotched with black; the throat and a streak enclosing the base of the cheeks pale greyish-buff finely speckled with black; the centre of abdomen and ventral region whitish-buff. The male in breeding plumage is more greyish, upper parts not blotched with black; cheeks and throat dark grey enclosed by a white loop; below this a broad black collar, again enclosed by a crescentic band of white and then another of black. In winter he closely resembles his mate.

Howard Saunders' *Manual of British Birds* records the following habits and characteristics:—

"Unlike the Great Bustard (*O. tarda*) the Little Bustard was never "more than a wanderer to the British Isles . . . . . It is a winter "visitor to Germany, France, Spain and Northern Italy, and a resident "species in Southern Italy, Sardinia . . . . . plentiful along the "Danube valley, Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Greece and Southern Russia. "Eastward it extends to Turkestan, and on migration it is known to cross "the lofty Pamir plateau on the way to its winter quarters in N.W. India. "In Africa, north of the Sahara, it is abundant, being well known in "Algeria and Tunis by the name of 'Poule de Carthage;' it is, however, "rare in Egypt."

"The male assumes his breeding plumage in April, at which time "he selects a spot about three feet in diameter, on which he passes several "hours each day, with head and neck thrown back, wings somewhat "extended, and tail erect, pouring forth its peculiar cry of prut, prut "(whence the French name of Canepetière), jumping up at the conclusion "of each call, and striking the ground in a peculiar manner on his descent. "At this season Mr. Abel Chapman found that the throat became much "dilated. Conflicts take place for the females, but instead of uniting in "flocks while the latter are incubating, each male is to be found in the "vicinity of a hen. The nest, slightly made of dry grass, is placed on the "ground, among herbage sufficiently high to conceal the bird; the eggs, "3-4 in number, are of a very glossy olive-brown or pale green, clouded "with darker patches, and often beautifully zoned with rufous; measure-"ments 1.95 by 1.5 in. The first clutch is laid about the end of May, a "second being frequently produced in the latter part of July. The food "consists of herbs, grain, insects, slugs, small snails, frogs, field mice, etc. "The male rises with a loud clatter of his wings, but the female sits "remarkably close. In autumn the birds form large packs, which afterwards "break up into small parties."

My specimen, though a hen, has shown many of the above attributes; she sits close on a squat she has chosen amid coarse grass, and her call is hoarse and bark-like, and can be interpreted as an indistinct *prut*. Her contour is elegant and she appears at her best when something unusual has arrested her attention—she then pulls herself very erect, stretching her neck to the utmost (at this time it is less than an inch in diameter, and one wonders how she manages to swallow an all-but full grown mouse), stands almost without movement, save that the head almost imperceptibly is quietly turned, so that her clear piercing eyes can have free range. She is then really stately in her appearance, and the beauty of her finely lined and blotched plumage is most strikingly evident. The only time she has ever shown alarm with me has been when it has been necessary to pick her up, but once in your hands she ceases to struggle

and looks calmly around her. Her enclosure can be entered without alarming her; she merely, with dignified gait, moves out of your way.

Though only an odd bird—I long for a mate for her—no price could tempt me to part with her, and I do not, as a rule, love odd birds; she at any rate will live her life with me whether I succeed in getting a mate for her or not. Can I say more?

Notes of the Season.

By Mrs. C. H. Read.

Perhaps a few notes of the doings of my birds during their first season in this part of the world (Marshchapel, Lincs.) may interest my fellow members.

Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*): These old favourites were the first to start nesting; they have for company a pair of Bengalese (*Munia domestica*), and occupy an outdoor cage. The Zebras appeared to be incubating on March 16th. Although they still visited the nest long after the young ought to have made their exit, I did not look in the nest—it was so difficult to get at. However, by May 13th they had determined to leave the nest for good; then we got out the nest, which contained one infertile egg.

On May 21st the old birds were nesting again, and this resulted in a brood of five young birds. This was a great surprise to me, for I thought they had forsaken the nest; they were frequently flying about and there was no sound of young birds till July 20th, when I heard the sound of violent squeaking. One died on the fourth or fifth day after leaving the nest: the other four were all reared and proved ultimately to be all males. A subsequent nest produced two more young birds. I am, naturally, very pleased with my Zebra Finches, for they alone have just saved me from the trying position of having to write nil as the result of the 1923 breeding season.

Canaries: These I keep in an indoor birdroom. On May 6th two hens were sitting; one deserted before the eggs were due to hatch, and the other did ditto only one day before the young were due to hatch! In spite of this bad beginning

I have succeeded in rearing seven fine young birds in the course of the season, from my two pairs.

Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*): May 20th was really an exciting day for me, for I noticed my hen Stanley spent most of her time in the nest. On June 7th we found an egg lying on the grass in the flight; this did not look very hopeful, but she continued sitting, so I hoped on. On July 2nd, however, my hopes were dashed to the ground, for then I dicovered the nest contained one cold egg. An examination, however, revealed that it contained a half-formed chick, so my hopes are now centred on next season, as my greatest ambition at the present time is to breed some Stanley Parrakeets.

Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*): My pair have behaved very badly—at least I must not blame the hen I suppose, for on May 20th we took away sixteen infertile eggs, and on June 17th she forsook eleven; on July 25th we took away twelve, and to-day (Oct 8th) we found she had forsaken eleven more—all were infertile! The cock is to all appearance a fine healthy bird, but, I fear, the fault is his. I do not know whether he is too young or otherwise; he does not look an aged bird.

By the way, I am afraid I have proved that there must be exceptions (There are to all rules and dogmas.—Ed.) to the almost universal belief in the docility of Cockateels. On June 1st I found my blue-bred Green Budgerigar lying dead in the seed-pan, with a badly picked skull. The only other occupants of the aviary were the Cockateels! I fancy somehow that the budgerigar may have trespassed too near the cockateel's nest—anyhow, I have wired off the budgerigars, as I do not feel I dare try the blue-breds with them any more.

[Though a reasonable deduction, it by no means follows that such was the case, for, of late years, many accounts of budgerigars proving very combative with each other have appeared, so apparently prolonged domestication has neither improved their manners nor their amiability.—Ed.]

Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*): My common Greens have done very badly this season and have proved very disappointing, as I usually do well with this species. Perhaps it was not their fault, as I have so many odd birds, till in August

I managed to get them properly paired up, but they have made no attempt to settle down to nesting. My trouble started with one hen dying early in the season—in trying to get another in its place, no less than three times was I hopelessly "had" by dealers, who persisted in sending me birds in nestling plumage, all of which ultimately turned out to be cock birds, at the same time always charging me adult prices! At last, through the kindness of one of our members (whose birds were really all in pairs at the time), I was able to secure an adult breeding hen.

Bengalese Finches (*Munia domestica*): My pair, which live with the Zebra Finches, have been ridiculously amusing; they have built a very rough nest—at least it is just "piled up hay"—in a Hartz travelling-cage, and they spend their days there, sitting side by side on the top of it—this has been going on for months!

I fear this is a somewhat rambling account and of but little interest, but I wanted to do my "bit" in response to the Editor's appeal for copy.

A Himalayan Pass.

By Hugh Whistler, F.Z.S.

One of the better known of the high passes in the Western Himalayas is the Rhotang, which carries the Central Asiatic trade road from Kulu over the Central Himalayan range into Lahul, and ultimately on to Leh and Yarkand. It was my fortune to cross this pass on 12th July, 1923, for the fourth time, and some account of the pass from an ornithological point of view may be of interest to the members of the Foreign Bird Club.

We had spent the night at the small rest-house of Rahla, situated at 8,800 ft. altitude at the Kulu foot of the range, and by 7-30 a.m. the whole camp and baggage mules were ready to start. The day was not propitious—heavy clouds obscured the sky, advance post of the monsoon, and, as we started, a light drizzle commenced. But time was important, so we gambled on the fact that heavy rain was not likely at this season to start before midday, and our temerity was rewarded by a safe and

not too unpleasant crossing. I started ahead of the camp with a single orderly, so as to collect and observe unhindered.

The first part of the road zigzags up an enormous hump of the mountain, and here, owing to the rain, we saw nothing of interest save a cock Meadow Bunting (*Emberiza cia stracheyi*) which was feeding by the path. On reaching the top of the hump we exchanged the rain for the biting wind which is usually the unpleasant characteristic of this pass, and which blew steadily in our faces most of the way to the summit and over, and made progress more troublesome than it need have been. Here, however, the way was enlivened by the presence of a large number of Red-billed Choughs (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*), which were feeding on the grazing grounds or floating over our heads with their musical call, so reminiscent at times of the Jackdaw that I scanned the parties half in expectation of a "russet pate."

Here I may explain that the whole of the road over the pass is treeless; the roughly built mule road winds through green pastures studded with Potentillas, Dwarf Iris, Anenomes, and other Alpine flowers, and littered with boulders and stones that time and the melting snows have brought from the heights above. A few drifts of snow still lingered about the road in sheltered crannies. There was, of course, plenty of snow on the heights that surround the pass, and indeed fresh snow had fallen that night.

We passed the Choughs, and for a long way saw no birds at all, not even the Snow Pigeons (*Columba leuconota*), which are usually seen about the road. Then at about 12,000 ft. a cheery song revealed the presence of a pair of Ruby-Throats (*Luscinia pectoralis*) who were probably nesting in the tangle of fallen rocks where they were living. A short search revealed nothing, and doubtless the nest was deep down somewhere in the crannies and could only have been found by careful watching.

As we neared the summit (13,000 ft.) the wind grew colder and the prospect more bleak; water meandered in every direction from the melting snow drifts which alternated with huge outcrops of rock; mist rolled through the gap of the pass in an almost continuous stream, and we only had occasional glimpses of the rocky snow-girt crests which rise on each side of the

"saddle back" that forms the actual pass. Once on the summit, which is about a quarter of a mile broad, we were able to shelter and take stock of our surroundings, and, fortified by lunch, to take more interest in them. The southern watershed of the pass forms the source of the River Beas, which is indicated by a small shrine enclosing a spring. Here were simple offerings of flowers laid by travellers, and the ground about was spiky with pointed stones set up in tribute to the spirit of the pass. My attention turned from these to a cheery White-capped Redstart (*Chaimarrhornis leucocephalus*) who was calling and flirting his tail near the infant Beas, and a pair of Stoliczka's Mountain Finch (*Montifringilla nemoricola altaica*) who were courting in these desolate surroundings.

The northern watershed of the pass feeds the Chandra river, one of the parents of the Chenab, and across the river down in the valley, 3,000 ft. below, one looks towards the central mass of Lahul, a group of mountains rising to 20,000 ft., with enormous glaciers enshrined amongst the crests. On this face of the summit I spent some time, as the snow water on its way to the valley below had formed a series of small pools surrounded by grassy slopes and stony patches of ground. On the slopes a number of Hodgson's Pipit (*Anthus roseatus*) were singing and feeding, and several of their newly fledged young were seen, shepherded by anxious parents.

At one of the pools I noticed a Redshank (*Tringa calidris*) and this I shot for the collection. There was a faint possibility that it might be a breeding bird, so I searched all the pools for the mate, but without result, and dissection showed later that it was not nesting. My search, however, revealed the presence of a party of 7 or 8 Green Sandpipers (*Tringa ochropus*), and it is probable that these waders were early migrants in company. While sitting on a rock watching the Sandpipers I suddenly saw, in the distance, two birds fly together and tumble on the ground as if fighting, and in the distance they looked no larger than larks. But cries arose that told me one of the birds was a Green Sandpiper, and when the fight became stationary it was not difficult to guess that the second bird must be a Hawk or Falcon, and at this altitude any such must be a prize. I accordingly seized the gun and hurried off in the folds of the ground until I was able to look over a rise and see a lovely male Hobby

(*Falco subbuteo*) plucking the dead Sandpiper, who was soon avenged, and a greatly desired specimen added to the collection. This Hobby must also have been on passage, as the bare mountain ranges of Lahul are hardly suitable to the species, and it was not likely to have left the forests of Kulu to hunt on the bare ranges above.

The only other birds seen on the pass were a couple of fine Griffen Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) which flew swiftly between the peaks, and a distant Swift (probably *Cypselus apus*) seen amongst the wreaths of mist.

Time was passing and we still had the descent into the valley of Chandra, so reluctantly I left the pass to the spirits of mist and rain, and wearily plodded down the hillside, leaving the winding mule track in favour of sheep paths. For the first thousand feet of the descent no birds were seen except Hodgson's Pipit. Then one began to see Black Redstarts (*Phoenicurus ochrurus phoenicuroides*) sitting on the boulders and knew that one was indeed at last in the land of Lahul. Then the rest-house in the bottom of the valley beside the roaring Chandra came into sight, and as we stepped on to the level road the finishing touch was afforded by a graceful party of the Alpine Chough (*Pyrrocorax graculus*).

The Aviaries at Lilford Hall.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

During the first week of September, while on a short visit to Mr. Guy Falkner, we motored to Oundle and looked over this famous collection of birds. Unfortunately I have no photos of the palatial aviaries and paddocks in which the birds were kept, and the only notes I have are mental, so I much fear that this short account can neither do justice to the collection and its accommodation, nor yet prove very interesting to my readers. There are four impressions that are most vivid with me as I take up my pen to write, viz:

(1) The Macaws and Cockatoos at liberty.
(2) The Collection of Cranes.
(3) The Birds of Prey.

(4) The Lake with its large paddock along the shore, occupied by pinioned pheasants, waders, and other waterfowl.

In most of them I have only a hazy recollection of the species I saw, while concerning the birds of prey I cannot with certainty recall a single species, but the perfect housing and splendid "in the pink" condition of all remain a vivid and pleasing memory.

We (Mr. Guy Falkner and I) had a pleasant motor journey there through beautiful country, rather tedious owing to losing our way more than once, nevertheless it all made a most enjoyable and interesting day, which will not readily fade from either of our memories.

The Cranes: On arrival we were met by Mr. R. Cosgrave, the aviary attendant, and our first visit was to the Cranes—then and there I obtained a promise to send me a list of them, and this came to hand in due course, and form a good introduction to these notes, so I forthwith give same.

2 Native Companion Cranes (*Grus australasiana*).
4 Cape Crowned Cranes (*G. chrysopilargus*).
6 White-necked Cranes (*G. leucauchen*).
1 West African Crowned Crane (*G. pavoniana*).
2 Common Cranes (*G. communis*).
1 Manchurian Crane (*G. viridirostris*).
2 Hooded Cranes (*G. monachus*).
1 Sarus Crane (*G. antigone*).
1 American White Crane (*G. americana*).
1 Demoiselle Crane (*G. virgo*).
2 Canadian Cranes (*G. canadensis*).
2 Siberian Cranes (*G. leucogeranus*).
2 Hybrid Cranes (*G. canadensis* × *G. leucauchen*).

These were housed separately, species by species, in roomy paddock runs, with a shelter house in each. Quite a few of these handsome and interesting birds are bred annually.

Macaws and Cockatoos, etc., at Liberty. These were enjoying their freedom in some large trees adjoining the aviaries; the walks between have boughs fixed across as perches, to which food tins are attached, and the birds come there regularly for food. I noticed the Blue and Yellow and more

than one species of Red Macaw; a flock of Ring-necked Parrakeets, and ditto of Palm Doves. Of Cockatoos I only saw the Sulphur-crest and Roseate. A young hybrid between the Sulphur-crest and Roseate Cockatoo had been bred at liberty, which was in one of the aviaries at the time of our visit, and not yet in full adult plumage. I was greatly interested in it, and it promises to be an exquisitely beautiful bird. The crest at present is white, back and wings white, lightly flushed with grey; the underparts are white but distinctly pinkish on breast and ear coverts. In its present stage it is too beautiful for words, though possibly at the next moult the grey and pink may be more pronounced; at present its soft delicate hue simply "beggars description."

The Aviaries: Owing to lack of notes, I cannot specify the occupants of any given aviary. Each aviary consists of a roomy, attractively constructed, well-lighted shelter house; the flights are constructed of bent ironwork, with half-inch mesh wire netting stretched over same, and laid down in grass sparsely planted with evergreen bushes. I call to mind seeing the following species out of a really large collection: Peacock, Lineated, Fireback, Golden, Amherst, Reeves', Silver, and Impeyan Pheasants; Blue-bearded, Pileated, and Yucatan Jays; Nonpareils, Cardinals, Indigo Buntings, various Waxbills and Weavers; Budgerigars, King Parrakeets, Grey and Senegal Parrots, Gouldian and many other finches. Also Choughs, Glossy Starlings, Jay Thrushes, Tinamous, Hill Mynahs, Rosy Pastors; Palm & Auriculated Doves; Triangular-spotted, and Australian and Crested Pigeons; and a New Guinea Crowned Pigeon. The Peacock and other Pheasants have successfully bred, there being quite a number of this handsome species about. The same applies to other species, but I cannot recall definite details.

The Lake and its Paddock: This made an exquisite picture, in the admiring of which I fear I failed to note all the species of waterfowl I might have done. All the birds on the lake and adjoining paddock were pinioned. I noticed Mandarin, Pintail, White-faced Tree-, Rosy-bill, and Carolina Ducks; Whistling, Japanese and other Teal; American Widgeon, Pelicans, Black Storks, Flamingoes, Upland, Canadian, and other Geese; Oyster Catchers, and other

Waders; Gold, Swinhoe's, and, I think, Silver Pheasants—there was plenty of cover in various parts of the paddock, but I was surprised to notice these birds agreeing together in the same enclosure, though one cock Swinhoe's showed decided traces of conflict, looking in fact quite sorry for himself.

The Birds of Prey: As I have already said, I cannot talk but little of species, but I have never seen a collection of *Raptores* in such beautiful plumage and condition. As I write, though, I recall Eagle-Owls, Ravens, Kites, Vultures, and a Secretary Bird; Bohlm, Golden, and White-tailed Eagles among others. They were housed in roomy, wholesome pens, the appearance of which spoke volumes of the care and attention lavished upon them.

This, to the writer, most unsatisfactory notice of a remarkable series of birds must now close in this incomplete fashion.

En passant I may mention the exquisite Rock and Landscape gardens we saw were too entrancing for words, but I must not say more on this topic, as this is an Avicultural, not a Horticultural Journal. Eye and brain were alike on the rack during the whole of our flying visit, and about a 80-90 miles' motor run to Moreton-in-the-Marsh brought to a close one of the most pleasant and interesting excursions it has been my lot to share.

Breeding *Sporaeginthus subflavus* at Liberty.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

Members may be interested to hear that I have bred the Orange-breasted Waxbill at liberty for the first time, but regret that I can supply practically no details.

I have kept this pretty little waxbill at liberty for three successive summers and have often noticed them carrying large feathers to their nests. 1922 was a hopeless summer for waxbills, and although several species nested no young were reared, nor, as far as I know, even hatched. Besides insect food they seem to need a certain degree of heat to bring them into proper breeding condition.

The early part of this summer was little better than last.

but the Orange-breasts started pairing and carrying building material in May, as soon as they were let out. In July we at last had a spell of hot, dry weather and warm nights, and I hoped that a little luck might be in store. On August 18th I noticed one of the Orange-breasts in one of the aviaries left open for feeding and shelter, in company with an odd male of the same species. The markedly brown-shade of its beak and plumage attracted my attention at once, and I saw that it was a young bird and not a hen.

Some Recent Additions.

By Captain H. S. Stokes.

We are now busy on the construction of a third aviary, the shed porton of which was part of an old greenhouse just demolished. It is 12ft. x 8ft. with double brick walls and a span roof 11ft. high. The garden flight will adjoin the softbills' aviary No. 2, and will be laid out as a garden with a pool, grasspatch and borders of shrubs and flowers. Its area will be about 25ft. square, and the height ranging from 12ft. in the middle to 6ft. 6in. over the shed door. The birds seem to find their way indoors better, and it is also easier to drive them in when the top netting comes down to the level of the top of the door. This aviary is intended for bigger birds of the Mynah size, which are apt to keep smaller softbills away from the food pans. Some of them we already have in No. 2 aviary waiting for transfer, and they include a Black-necked Grackle, a soberly coloured bird about the size of a Hill Mynah, of dark brown and white with a black neck and a patch of primrose coloured skin round the eye. He is a most delightful bird, absolutely tame, and likes to be picked up and scratched, when he raises his head feathers and lies quite still as if mesmerised. Although usually peaceable he is apt to go for any bird not quite fit, and was, I fear, partly responsible for the death of our best Shama, whom he attacked when soaking wet and unable to fly. This Grackle, besides a harsh cry of annoyance and a monotonous whistle, has also learnt the "policeman's whistle," with variations of his own, and sings also some beautiful snatches of song, obviously copied from the Shamas and Wild Thrushes.

A Naked-throated Bell Bird also awaits transfer. He has only been here a few weeks, but is in wonderful condition already, and gobbles up enormous quantities of banana. Within a week of arriving he started to call, a noise exactly like the striking of a hammer on an anvil. He can be plainly heard at houses a quarter of a mile from this garden, and people in the village have even reproached the blacksmith for sabbath breaking by working at his anvil! Other new birds include two cock Giant Whydahs, one of them now in colour—hens are apparently unobtainable—a Black-throated Hangnest, very handsome, an Indian Mynah, Green Glossy Starling, and a Bengal Pitta. This is a charming, long-legged, almost tailless bird, the size of a Thrush, green and buff with patches of kingfisher blue on his back and wings. He is quite tame, taking mealworms out of our hands, and looks lovely squatting down on the grass with his wings spread out to the sun. With qualms of conscience from the exchequer's point of view we must mention a pair of Superb Fruit Pigeons (*Ptilopus superbus*) recently privately imported from Australia; very tame, and the cock a glorious bird—green with a purple head, chestnut collar and a blue-grey breast broadly barred with black.

A pair of Plumed Ground Doves (*Lophophaps plumifera*) are also among the nicest birds bought this year. They are very affectionate and sit jammed up close together, looking like a pair of brown boots put out to be cleaned. I have frequently seen them mating and feeding one another, and hope they will not try to breed during the winter, as so many Australian birds have a tiresome habit of doing. A Long-tailed Roller from S. Africa—a lovely creature of mauve and blue like a great flying opal—is still caged, and being fed up after its recent voyage. It is a pity that small waders come so seldom into the dealers' hands. Can any member help me to obtain Dunlins or any other small sorts which are content with rice and insectile food, and do not demand smelly raw fish, and will also live peaceably with the birds mentioned above? Our pair of Blue Tanagers have built a neat nest of grass and hair in a Hartz canary cage in the shed of No. 2 aviary, and the hen sits on it a good deal, but I fear it is now too late in the season for any breeding luck with them. When the transfer of birds to this new aviary is complete—most of them bachelors—it is

intended to confine the two other aviaries more or less to pairs which have now had some months to settle down in, with the hope of breeding more next year.

Breeding the Benguella Sparrow.

(Passer zagoensis benguellensis).

By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

This rarely imported bird is the largest of the Sparrows that I have kept, exceeding in size even that handsome bird the Cape Sparrow (*Passer arcuatus*). My birds came to me, as I think I have mentioned in a previous article, as Mehali Weavers, but as at the time I had a handsome cock Mehali in my aviaries, I knew that they could not belong to this species. I am indebted to the authorities at the British Museum for naming them properly.

Very early in April they went to nest, using the same box, and in fact the same nest, in which the Cape Sparrows brought off a troop of young last year. As it was so early in the season I removed the eggs, which were similar to our own Sparrows' eggs, for my own collection. The hen quickly went to nest again, but the eggs proved to be infertile. About this time we had a lot of cold east winds, which affected the fertility of the eggs of most of the birds. After these two failures they took a rest, but went to nest again whilst I was on my holiday, for on my return I found two newly hatched young. These did fairly well, the old birds feeding them on any insects I could supply, as well as on bread and milk. They were a long time in the nest, probably three weeks, and when they left took shelter in the thick cover, so that I did not get a good view of them. I could see that they did have a good deal of white on the wings and tail. After a few days the old birds ceased to come for insects, and the hen started laying again, so I concluded that the young were dead, but I failed to find their bodies. They were probably taken by a brute of a rat that I found later on in the aviary. Twelve days later, on July 25th, three young Sparrows were hatched. I now began to give the parents gentles as well as mealworms. I fancy that meal-

worms alone are too fattening. The old birds fed them very well, but a week later there were only two left in the nest, and

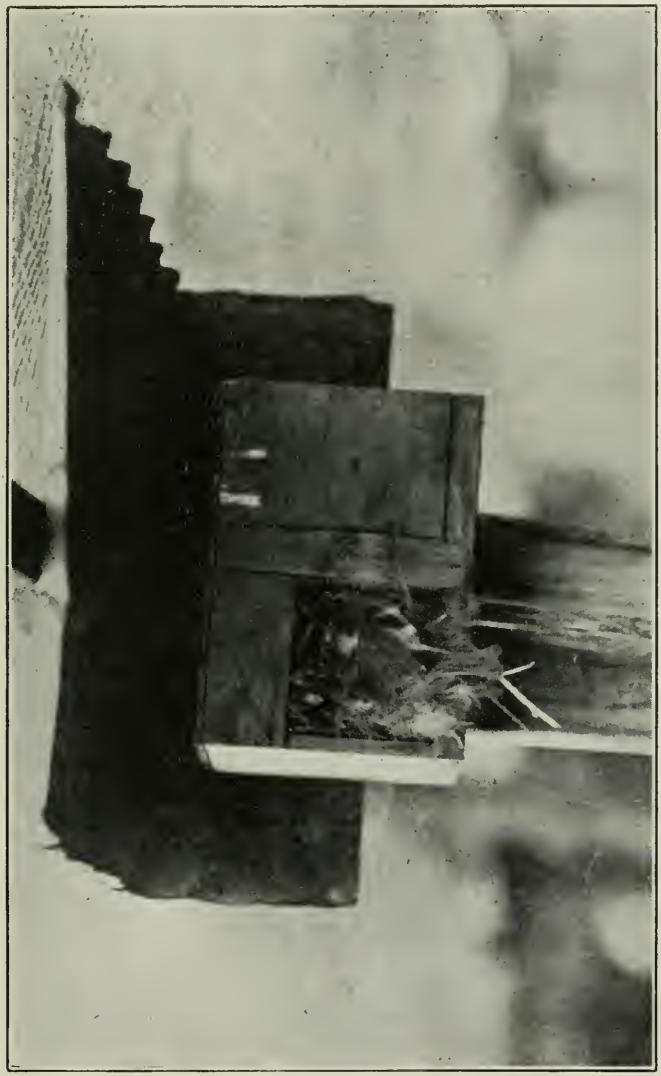

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Cock Benguella Sparrow at nest.

a few days later one of these disappeared. The survivor now had a much greater chance, as it got all the insects its parents could catch, as well as those I supplied, and I expected to see it

on the wing at any time. However, I suppose that it found its nest comfortable, as it did not leave it until August 15th, just a week later than a Grey Singingfinch that was hatched on the same day. Two days before this I had the pleasure of a visit from Dr. Hopkinson, and we took the young bird from the rest and examined it. He says that he has not met with it in Gambia. It differs considerably from either of its parents. Crown of head, nape and back greyish brown; ear coverts blackish brown, a similar coloured spot on throat; underparts dirty white; wings white save for the tips of the flights, and a narrow brown bar across the coverts; tail brown with a broad white bar. I fancy that the colour of wings and tail must be abnormal, although two out of the three young Cape Sparrows I reared last year were very similarly marked. I had the pleasure of showing the old Sparrows to Mr. Seth-Smith on the occasion of his recent visit, and I understood him to say that they had not had them at the Zoo. The following is a description of the adults: Cock: crown of head, neck, back and rump rich chestnut; streak above eye, cheeks, and sides of throat dirty white; streak behind eye, chin and throat black. Hen duller, greyish brown on head and back instead of chestnut, and the throat spot not so dark. My young one is, I am afraid, a male,but time alone will show. It looks very pretty in flight with its white wings, and not unlike a Snow Bunting.

The Lilac-crowned Fruit-Pigeon.

(Ptilopus coronulatus).

A BREEDING SUCCESS.

By Captain H. S. Stokes.

In some notes on our birds, published a few months ago, we were careful to emphasise that we do not—at present—go in primarily for breeding, but rather for a mixed collection of birds for their beauty and interest. So that apart from Budgerigars, which, left to themselves in a summer-house aviary, have reared numerous families, our birds have done little this season. The one brilliant and notable exception has been the Lilac-crowned Fruit Pigeon (*Ptilopus coronulatus*)

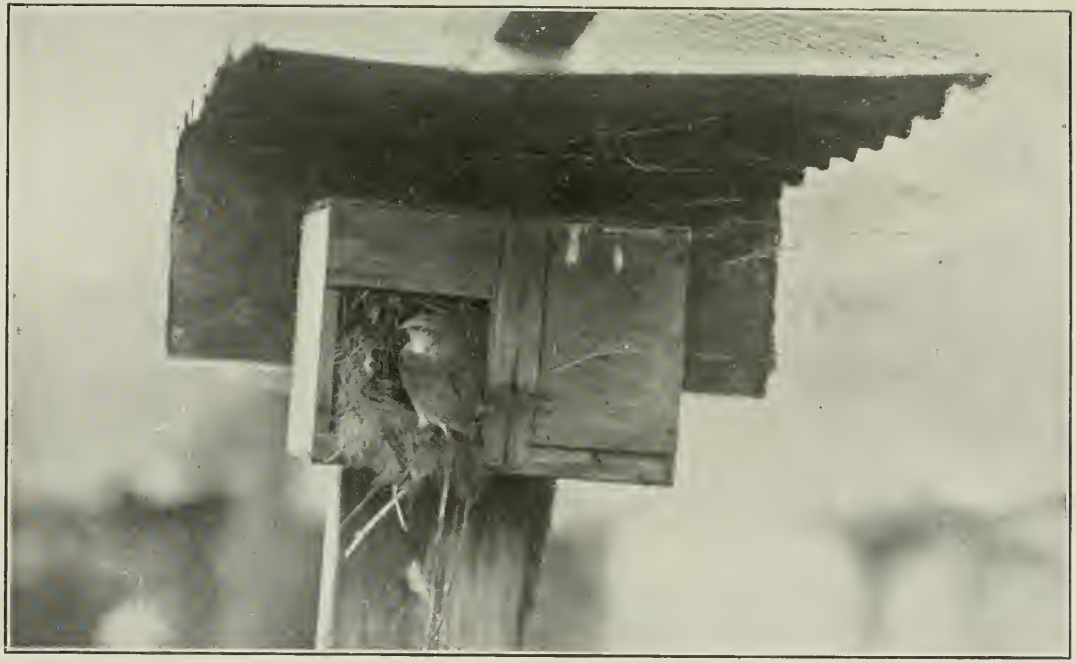

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Hen Benguella Sparrow at nest.

from Aru Island, New Guinea, of which we now have a fine healthy youngster feeding itself and fully grown.

During May one pair of Lilac-crowns determined to brave the crowd of mixed softbills which share their aviary, and began looking at nesting boxes.

The weather was abominable, so fortunately they chose a fairly deep box nailed to a beam indoors, and already filled with straw and shavings.

No nesting material was carried by the birds, and one egg only was laid. During the eighteen days of incubation, which the cock and hen shared, the nest was never left for a moment. On June 24th the presence of broken eggshell on the floor proclaimed the hatching of the squab, which the parent bird allowed us to look at by lifting her wing. In an agony of suspense for the safety of the precious mite we removed to the neighbouring aviary a Black-necked Grackle of inquisitive habits and sharp probing bill, but for the rest had to trust to luck.

However, fortune favoured us, and on the eleventh day after hatching, the baby showed itself for the first time on the edge of the nest, and on the following day astonished us by flying quite strongly across the aviary on to a branch.

It was then about the size of a Pekin Robin, and under its yellow fluff was much the same colour as its parents. The following description of this beautiful Fruit Pigeon is taken from the British Museum Catalogue:—

"Adult male, green with golden reflections; pileum rose-lilac, edged posteriorly with deep purple, and surrounded with a yellow band; sides of head greyish-green; chin and throat yellowish; a patch on the middle of abdomen lilac-violet; vent and under wing-coverts yellow; wings glossy green, with slight bluish tinge; quills and greater wing-coverts edged with yellow; tail above glossy green, the feathers edged with yellow towards the tip; tail below grey, bill olive green; feet purple-red, irides with an inner circle red and an outer one yellow. Length 7.86 inches. Tail 2.55 inches. Female like male, but the yellow of abdomen and under tail-coverts paler. Young, pileum green, and no lilac-violet patch on middle of abdomen." As regards the last sentence one young bird distinctly showed

the lilac on head and breast when a month old, but at six weeks this had disappeared and is not yet visible again. The hen again went to nest in a different box on September 9th, and sat for three days, when unfortunately the Grackle disturbed her and ate the egg. Until this date all three birds were constantly together, and we saw no sign of the parents chasing the young away. The young bird was reared on the usual fruit supplied in the aviary: apple and banana chopped up into small dice, soaked currants and dried apricots sliced and soaked, and in addition to these a liberal supply of diluted Nestle's milk in which sponge cake is soaked.

The Sulu Island King Parrakeet.

(Aprosmictus suluensis).

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

To aviculturists the name "king parrakeet" usually connotes a single species—the well-known Australian *Aprosmictus cyanopygius*, a nice bird in an aviary, an even nicer one at liberty, and an enduring, but unhappy captive in a cage. A few, a very few, bird lovers may have seen the more gorgeous Green-winged *Aprosmictus* of New Guinea, but the rest of the *Aprosmicti* are practically unknown to aviculture. There are, however, three or four other kinds inhabiting New Guinea and the neighbouring islands, all birds of the greatest beauty, and one, clad entirely in crimson and dark, glittering blue, fairly making my mouth water when I first saw a skin at the Edinburgh Museum. Among these very rare kings may be included the subject of this article, who, for more than three years, has been one of the principal treasures of my collection, which may she long continue to adorn. Like the Layard's Parrakeet mentioned in a previous article, she was brought over in a collection made by Mr. Wilfrid Frost. He succeeded in obtaining a pair, but the cock, who, I understand, was a much more beautiful bird than this partner, did not survive the voyage—a misfortune I have never ceased to regret. The hen Sulu Island is a good third smaller than a common king and more slenderly built. Her general plumage is not unlike

that of a male *Cyanopygius*, but her tail is a decided dark blue, instead of black, and her rump a very brilliant blue. The beak is red with a dark edging to the mandibles, and the eye is large and yellowish-red in colour, giving the bird a curiously wild expression, which rather belies her nature, which is gentle and rather timid. The head is squarer in shape than that of a common king.

My Sulu Island is an active bird and her flight is graceful and rapid. She has two calls, both of which bear a resemblance to the two best-known calls of the common king, but her whistle is weaker, higher pitched and uttered much more rapidly, while her other call, which is impossible to describe in print, is hoarser, harsher and less loud than the corresponding one of *A. cyanopygius*.

She seems a perfectly hardy bird and has never been ill, living winter and summer in an outdoor aviary, and being fed on the usual seed mixture, together with fruit and green food. In 1921 she paired with a Red Shining Parrakeet, and laid two eggs which she incubated without result; probably the difference in size between the two birds was too great to allow a fertile union. This year I tried to pair her up with a Princess of Wales' Parrakeet, but he disliked her and would not take to her. The Sulu Island herself seemed a good deal attracted by a cock Crimson-wing at liberty, but I did not dare to risk her in the company of such a rough and bullying mate. Finally I put her with another Red Shining, but although the two were quite good friends, I never saw them take any notice of each other. Eventually, in April, the Sulu Island took to a nest-box, and some days later I found three beautiful white eggs, which I looked at with considerable regret, thinking of a possible medal if only she had had a mate. As I expected, she sat her full time without result. I have now put her with a young cock Australian King, and am hoping next year for hybrids which should be more beautiful than their male parent when adult. Unlike many females of the Australian species, the Sulu Island has taken readily to a nest-box of the ordinary type and has not insisted on a " grandfather clock " establishment.

Notes on Breeding the South African White-eye. *(Zosterops virens).*

By Capt. J. S. Reeve, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

A pair of the above species, purchased from Messrs. Gamage, were in my outdoor aviary the last two summers, but made no attempt to nest whatever,

This summer they were not put into the outdoor aviary till July 10th, and on the 22nd were sitting on three white eggs in a nest suspended in a holly bush; male and female sat in turns.

On August 3rd all three eggs were hatched out, but next day one fledgling was dead, and I removed it.

On the 8th I saw the hen feeding the other two on banana: they were then just fledging, and on the 14th they flew.

On the the 16th I noticed both parents feeding them on the soft food mixture, of which they continued to use a good deal, but were also feeding on live insects caught in the aviary.

By the 25th I noticed that one had white round the eye complete, in the other this was just showing.

September 1st: I saw one feeding on banana, and the other picking among the foliage. As the temperature had run down to 41°F. in the night, and both looked a bit puffy, I took them all into my indoor aviary the next day.

Both before and since this the parent birds would come down for mealworms, of which I gave them about four morning and evening, but the young now take these themselves without much assistance. The youngsters are a fine pair of birds, and I should be pleased to sell them and their parents.

[About a week after receiving the above we received the body of the male parent with a note stating that it had been picked up dead in the aviary—from the body we were able to fix the species as *Z. virens*—the sudden change of weather and resultant pneumonia was the cause of death.—Ed.]

Correspondence.

DO BLUE-WINGED LOVEBIRDS LINE THEIR NESTS?

Sir,—I notice that in your reply to a correspondent in *Cage Birds*, you say that the Blue-winged "Lovebird" uses material to line its nest. I have great hesitation in criticizing your statement, but are you *sure* that *Psittacula*

line their nests like lovebirds. I have bred *passerina* at liberty and *guianensis* in a cage and have never known them to show any more disposition to line their nests than budgerigars.

I am inclined to think, too, that your correspondent has seen an advertisement of what the dealers are calling "Turquoise Lovebirds," i.e. *P. cyanopygia*, an island race of *passerina*, with a lighter blue rump, which has been imported recently for the first time. I doubt if we shall ever see any *Neophema* offered by dealers again.

Havant: Aug. 19, 1923. (The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

I am inclined to think that the Marquis of Tavistock is correct as regards the general practice of *Psittacula*, but I based my reply upon the only instance in which *P. passerina* have bred with me. It was one of those instances, owing to my being busy and only seeing the birds for a short time morning and evening and I have scarcely any data concerning this episode, but this *I know* that their nest receptacle was not exactly lined, but the base was well covered and the sides lined half way up with leaves, fine twigs and millet spray stems, and, as there was no other species of lovebird in the aviary that summer, it could not have been a case of their having appropriated a discarded *Agapornis* (the true lovebirds) nest. The other occupants of their aviary were budgerigars and cockateels. I am not sure that it was intended that I should publish the above, but I am sure I shall be forgiven, as the matter is of general interest, and members may be able to throw light upon the matter and so decide whether my experience was merely the isolated idiosyncrasy of an individual pair of birds or otherwise. I may add that I have looked up all available instances of success with this species, and the writers make no mention of nesting material, so it is a fair deduction to assume that it was not used. I shall await other aviculturists' views with much interest.

Lingfield: Oct. 5, 1923 WESLEY T. PAGE.

BIRDS KILLED BY TICKS.

Sir,—The tick that killed my *Bathilda ruficauda* has been identified as a true tick (*Ixodes brunneus*). We now know, therefore, that small birds, British and foreign, are liable to be killed both by the sheep tick and other ticks, andthat a single parasite in each case is able to accomplish the murder.

Havant: September 5th, 1923. (The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

TALKING BUDGERIGAR.

Sir,—I thought readers of Bird Notes might be interested to hear of a Green Budgerigar which I bred in my aviary last September.

I took this bird (a young cock) from his parents two days after he left the nest, and gave him to a friend for a pet. He was kept in an ordinary wire cage in the sitting room, where he was able to see and hear everything that was going on around him. He very soon became quite tame, and would fly round the room and settle on the finger or shoulder without the slightest fear. No special care or trouble was taken over him; he was just treated as an ordinary pet, and readers can imagine the surprise

of his owner when one morning, after greeting him with "Hello, Joey," a small voice replied, "Hello, Joey."

And since that day he has picked up word after word, until now he has quite an extensive vocabulary. The following are some of his sayings:—"Pretty boy," "Joey's naughty boy," "Oh, Joey, Joey," "What did you say?" "Joey's a beauty boy," "Stop it," "What are you doing?" "See what I've got," "Oh, Joey, you *naughty* boy." He also has a most realistic sneeze, and since he has learned that, we have been trying to induce him to sneeze and then say, "Poor Joey has a cold," but so far he absolutely refuses to say the word "cold." He will sneeze quite nicely and say "Poor Joey has a ——" but no more. I might say that his words are not indistinct or whistled, but are most distinctly spoken; so much so, in fact, that when he calls the dog's name, "Dilly," as he does sometimes, even the dog turns round!

Of course, I know that cases of these birds saying a few words are not unknown, but I believe they are rather rare; in fact I have seen it stated somewhere that the proportion is not more than one in five hundred, but I think myself that they all have the power to speak in some degree, and that whether they use it or not is merely a question of the way in which they are kept. I have given two others to friends this year, and already they both say "Poor Joey" quite distinctly.

Alfreton; September 14th, 1923. CYRIL BEST.

Editorial.

Current Nesting Notes.—The tail-end of the season has been more fruitful in results than the earlier part of same; the following are some of the more notable happenings in our members' aviaries, besides those appearing elsewhere as articles:

Mr. Cyril Best, Alfreton, reports the successful rearing of two young Stanley Parrakeets, from a pair of this species procured from the Marquis of Tavistock in 1921.

Mons. A. Decoux, France, has had the good fortune to breed two White-capped Tanagers (*Stephanophorus leucocephalus*)—the first time this species has ever been bred in captivity, we think—an illustrated article will appear in our next issue.

Mr. H. E. Bright, Woolton, Liverpool, has several young hybrids, bred from a male Indigo Bunting (*Cyanospiza cyanea*) mated to a hen Nonpareil (*C. ciris*), now fully fending for themselves.

Also an Indigo Bunting paired with a hen Rainbow

Bunting (*C. leclancheri*), so far no young have hatched out, they having been disturbed with two clutches.

Capt. G. E. Rattigan, S. Devon, has succeeded in rearing one young Lavender Finch (*Lagonosticta caerulescens*), an interesting success, as there are very few recorded instances of the successful breeding of this species, and it is the first occasion Capt. Rattigan has been successful with it. Violet-eared Waxbills have also nested and were incubating a clutch of eggs. Gouldian Finches once again have disappointed Capt. Rattigan —he found a nest of five young birds about ten days old, all dead in nest, and he is at a loss as to cause. Capt. Rattigan also has a brood of hybrid Quail Finches successfully reared, between the Black-faced and Common Quail Finch—we think this is the first occasion on which this cross has been reared in Great Britain.

Torquay and District Fur and Feather Show, Dec. 19 and 20: This Society, in which our member Capt. G. E. Rattigan is greatly interested, are giving a liberal classification for Foreign Birds, no less than 10 open classes being allocated to this section. At the moment of going to press the classification is not definitely settled, but it will be arranged so as to allow the respective groups of birds, rare and common, fair competition, somewhat as follows:—

Class No.

I. Budgerigars and Lovebirds.

II. Grey Parrots; Blue-fronted Amazons; Roseate Cockatoos; Alexandrine, Ring-necked, and Blossom-headed Parrakeets.

III. A. O. Species Parrot, Cockatoo, or Macaw.

IV. A. O. Species Parrakeet, Lory or Lorikeet.

V. Mannikins; Java Sparrows; Weavers; Whydahs; Zebra, Ribbon (Cutthroat), Saffron, and Red-headed Finches; Silverbills; Spice Birds; Grey, and Green Singingfinches.

VI. Cordon Bleus; Com. Firefinches; Lavender Finches; Avadavats; Grey, Orange-cheek, and Golden-breasted Waxbills.

VII. A. O. Species Seedeater not included above.

VIII. Foreign Pigeons, Doves, and Quails.

IX. A. S. Softbill (Tanagers, Sugarbirds and Sunbirds, etc.), as large as and including Green Glossy Starlings.

X. A. S. Softbill larger than Green Glossy Starling.

Schedules may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

We trust our members will encourage this effort; the foreign birds will be under the personal care of Capt. Rattigan,

so members may be assured of their birds having skilled attention.

They will be judged by Mr. Wesley T. Page.

Bird Notes: The Hon. Editor greatly regrets the late appearance of this issue, but owing to his indisposition it has been lying at the printers all but complete since October 25th. He hopes to issue the November-December issue about December 20th, and hopes members will assist him by sending copy early.

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

Circe's Worshippers and Other Poems by Frank Finn, B.A., F.Z.S., London: Selwyn & Blount, 21 York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C., 2. one shilling net.

Mr. Finn is well known to our readers as an able ornithological writer, but, we think, this is his first attempt at verse. This little volume consists of a number of short poems, we quote one:

THE ORIOLE.

"Gold is my voice and gold my plume,
Amid the wild wood's leafy gloom,
Where she I love sits all unseen
Matching the sweet surrounding green,
I fly, and sing, and fly again,
And tell her all my lover's pain,
Ringing her round with golden rain;
While she to me in shy surprise
Turns rosy bill and ruby eyes.
Then should at last we wedded be,
Each year she grows more like to me."

The full contents are:

Circe's Worshippers—Birds' Names for Girls—The Peacock's Message—The Beaver's Bridal—The Ice-duck's Slogan—The Sheldrake's Lament—The Oriole—Song of the Wildfowl—The Osprey—The Cranes of Ibycus—Stormcock's Saga—Sir Chanticleer—Love the Leveller—Flying Foxes—Man and Horse—The Wizard.

Mr. Finn's little volume will be very welcome to bird-lovers, and is, we opine, but the precursor of others to follow.

It is a welcome addition to our bookshelves.

A Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times—Supplement—A Chronological List of British Birds. By H. Kirke Swann, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Etc. Corresponding Fellow of American Orn. Union. London: Weldon & Wesley, 2, 3 and 4, Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, 1923: 5s. net.

A distinct gain to serious ornithological literature, but we will allow the Author's Preface (abridged) to speak for itself, as follows:—

"The purpose of this work, which forms a first supplement to *A Bibliography of British Ornithology*, by W. H. Mullens, and the author, is to give the names of all the species and subspecies of birds on the British list arranged in the order of the dates when they were first scientifically described, the work in which the description and accepted specific name first appeared being indicated. In brief it is an attempt to summarise the history of the names of British birds. The nomenclature, etc., are based on Hartet, Jourdain, Ticehurst and Witherby's "Handlist of British Birds," 1912, with the necessary emendations which have since arisen. The list of genera prefixed is likewise arranged in the order of their creation, and only those genera actually employed in the following list are included. Those names simply taken from old authors are indicated, as well as those created from specific names, while original names are distinguished and their meaning given. I have appended also alphabetical lists of discarded generic and specific names with their equivalents in the new nomenclature . . . . . I have thought it better to deal with the names of Linnæus binomially and to leave trinomial names to be dealt with as the differing forms appeared, since Linnœus's names are basic and are automatically those of typical forms. I am aware that names of typical forms should appear trinomially, but Linnœus was a binomialist, in fact we revere him as the first of all binomialists, although we forthwith proceed to turn his binomials into trinomials. Not that I complain of this, for in the use of trinomials I am one of the earliest and in recent years, one of the worst sinners. Personally I object altogether to the conception of one bird as a fixed species and of another as a subspecies or variety of the first. Groups of forms, each of equal value, of which the first is regarded as typical merely for the sake of method, is the only correct conception of species in modern ornithology.—H.K.S."

Obviously the work has been compiled with minute care and research on the above lines, and, whatever points of controversy it may contain, it is the last (not final) word on its subject and a work no ornithological student can afford to be without. Its concise and comprehensive character, ease of reference, etc., alone will commend it to the busy ornithological student.

Post Mortem Reports.

For Rules vide *page ii. of cover.*

AUGUST.

Peach-faced Lovebird: Edward J. Boosey, Esq., Bromley Common.

Blue Grosbeak: Mrs. Johnson-Travers, Mayfield, Sussex.

Gouldian Finch: H. G. the Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park.

The above were answered by post.

Gold-breasted Waxbill (♂): Mrs. Alice Chatterton, Ruislip.—Enteritis and fatty liver.

SEPTEMBER.

September 12th. Trumpeter: G. H. Gurney, Esq., Keswick Hall, Norwich. Answered by post.

OCTOBER.

Whydah: E. Dennis, Esq., Leslie Court Wotton Bridge.—There was an acute hæmorrhagic enteritis; no evidence of any bruising or injury present.

Rock Thrush, Waxbill: H. G. the Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park.—Answered by post.

Red Cardinal: Mrs. M. A. Grossmith The Grange, Bickley.—Answered by post.

From life by the late H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

White-capped Tanager
(*Stephanophorus leucocephalus*).

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BIRD NOTES.

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Breeding of the White-capped Tanager.

(Stephanophorus leucocephalus).

By A. Decoux.

White-capped Tanagers have never been numerous on the bird market. In 1920 I considered myself very lucky in finding a hen in a Bordeaux bird-shop; later a dealer sent me another White-capped Tanager, which, fortunately, proved to be a cock, so I was the proud possessor of a true pair of this uncommon and beautiful species.

I find these birds hardy, and easy to feed. In my aviary they eat ripe fruit—cherries, apples, pears and bananas; milk-sop, and insectile mixture made of boiled potato and egg mashed together, to which I add some spoonfuls of Duguisne's powder (a prepared French insectile mixture, Ed.); they are fond of insects, and greedily eat mealworms and fresh ants' eggs (cocoons).

In 1921 they were put into a small aviary, with other insectivorous birds. They spent all the summer there without making any attempt to go to nest. The cock used to sing early, at daybreak in fact. In October they were caught up and caged in one of my heated birdrooms. By the way these birds do not seem to suffer from cold, and I think it would be quite possible to keep them out of doors all the year round, if they were compelled to spend winter's nights in a dry, comfortable shelter.

This year, in the month of April, I put them into a larger aviary, which was thickly planted with various species of shrubs and tall grasses, and contained some pairs of various Australian finches, Red-collared Whydahs, various species of Doves, and one pair of Red-crested Finches (*Coryphospingus*

cristatus); with these they lived in amity. The bush and plant-life was of such luxurious growth that it was sometimes difficult to see the birds as they disported amid the thick foliage, but from mid-April the cock sang from morn till nightfall. I had many opportunities of listening to his melody and cannot agree with Hudson, who describes it as follows:

> "During incubation the male sits concealed in the thick foliage, "amusing itself by the hour with singing, its performance consisting of "chattering and disconnected notes uttered in so low a tone as to make "one fancy that the bird is trying to recall some melody it has forgotten "or is trying to construct a new one by jerking out a variety of sounds "at random. The bird never gets beyond this stage . . . ."

As a matter of fact the song of the White-cap does not seem to me inferior to that of the robin or Blue Grosbeak. He has not the fulsome, flute-like melody of the Nightingale or Shama, but his song is quite sweet and agreeable, and during the breeding season it is frequently repeated. He is certainly the best songster I know of among the *Tanagridae*.

At the end of April the hen commenced to build a nest at the top of an elder bush, very near the top of the flight, amid very thick foliage, by which it was completely concealed. I *happened* to discover it one morning: it was very big and solid, entirely constructed of hay, lined on the inside with fine dry grasses.

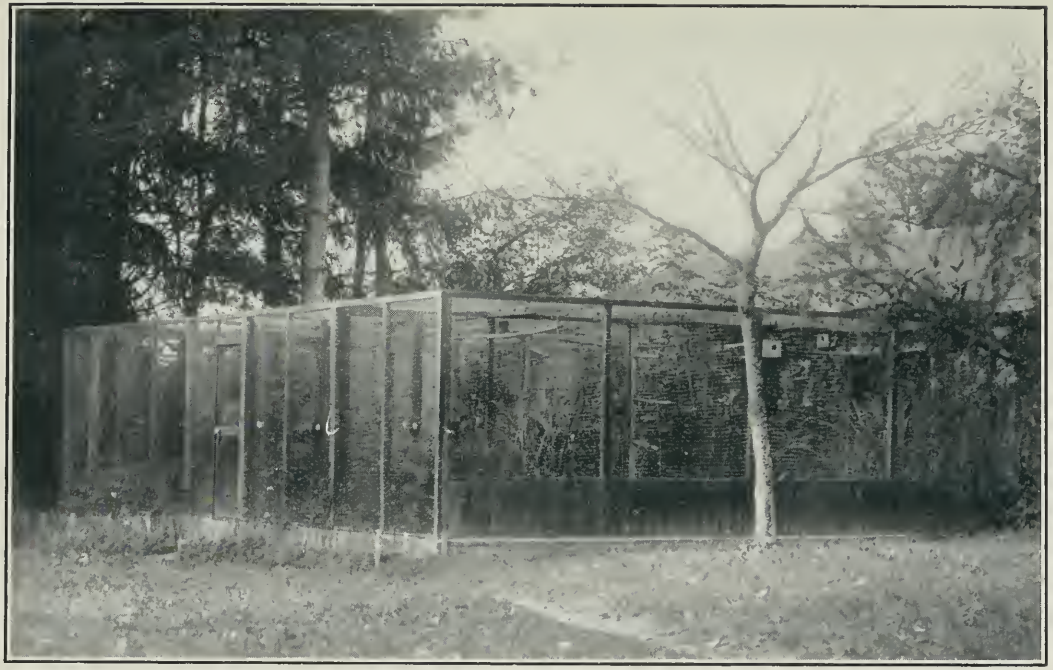
Unfortunately a spell of bad weather intervened, and the birds seemed to have forgotten their nest and desire to rear young.

On May 22nd the hen laid her first egg, and on the 24th another, and at once incubation commenced.

The eggs were about the same size as the blackbird's; they were rather long and of about equal thickness at both ends, white, spotted with brownish red.

The hen alone incubated. During this period the cock never went far from the nest, and sang almost incessantly the live-long day.

On June 6th two young birds hatched out. I could not see them in the nest; to do so it would have been necessary to take them out, which would probably have caused them to desert



Some of Mons. Decoux's Aviaries.

Other Mons. Decoux's Aviaries.

their nest and progeny. Both parents fed the young in the nest with small pieces of banana and insects, especially live ants' eggs and mealworms; the latter were killed and crushed before being fed to their young, the old birds swallowing the skins when their little ones had sucked them dry.

The young grew very fast. Some days after their hatching out I put my hand into the nest, and found their bodies filled it up. I was not allowed to make further investigation, for the parent birds, alarmed by my audacity, and evidently fearing I might rob them of their young boldly attacked my hands and face in the effort to drive me away. Very few birds will defend their progeny with such courage as they displayed, at any rate under the conditions of the restrained liberty of aviary-life.

On June 20th two young White-caps made their exit from the nest—the first, I believe, to do so in captivity—fully fledged, and flying as well as their parents.

In plumage they resembled their mother, being like her a dull blue-black all over their bodies, but they had neither the white cap nor small red crest which adorn both sexes of this species, but the youngsters had a dull white streak above the eye.

At the end of July the young began to eat ripe fruit (banana, cherries and strawberries) and insectile mixture, but their parents continued to feed them from time to time.

I hoped my White-capped Tanagers would rear a second brood, but they disappointed me and have made no other attempt at nesting this year.

At the end of September the young birds made their first moult, and their colours became more and more vivid, and a small red crest appeared at the base of their upper mandibles. I think they are a pair.

Article written October 19th.

[It would be of interest if Mons. Decoux would state if the White-cap also appeared at this time, though probably he includes this in "became more and more vivid."—Ed.]

A Small Garden Aviary and Nesting Episode.

By C. H. Macklin, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

A few notes on my first season's experiences may be of interest, at any rate to those who are thinking of starting a small outdoor aviary for foreign birds.

Before the war I kept a few species in cages, but this year I have been able to start the long-desired aviary in my garden. I built it myself last winter and completed it in April. It is placed against a brick wall facing S.S.E., and is 25 x 6 x 6 feet high. 10 feet of its length is roofed, consisting of a closed shed with glazed front 6 x 6 feet, and wired front shelter 6 x 4 feet. The rest, 15 x 6 feet, is an open flight, planted with small shrubs, grasses, etc.; hazel "pea-sticks" are used for perches. As it was intended chiefly for small waxbills, I used ⅜in. mesh wire netting; the frame-work is 2in. wood quartering, and the shed is of matchboarding; the roof is boarded and covered with "Ruberoid" felt. All the woodwork inside is stained with creosote, and the wire and outside woodwork painted with Brunswick black.

The first occupants were turned out in May, viz: pairs of African Fire and Lavender Finches, Grey and Golden-breasted Waxbills, Cordon Bleus, and an old tame cock Goldfinch. In June were added pairs of Cutthroats, Zebra Finches, Black-headed Nuns, and Grey Java Sparrows.

The Cutthroats almost immediately nested in a coco-nut shell, in the shelter, but failed to rear any young ones; the first clutch of four eggs hatched out, and the young birds lived about ten days. The hen soon started to lay again, and all seemed going well when one day there were no sounds coming from the nest. On inspection I found seven clear eggs and two dead fledglings of about the same age as the previous brood; their crops on both occasions were full of millet seeds. I had noticed that the parents did not seem to take many of the insects or live food supplied.

Meanwhile the Firefinches had lined a small rush nest and were both sitting in turns, the cock incubating during the day, and the hen at night, as a rule. Unfortunately the nest was not very securely fastened; it tilted forward a little and the

eggs fell out. There were four eggs, all fertile and nearly ready to hatch. After a week's rest they started again and had better luck; three young birds were fully reared, and two are now nearly four months old. They are both hens. The third, a young cock, died at eight weeks from some unknown cause; he was beginning to show his red plumage. During the time these young ones were in the nest I supplied live ants and ants' eggs *ad lib*, and they were reared principally on these and greenfly, which I was able to give; the hen also spent a good time hawking small flies and gnats.

The Firefinch had left the nest about a week when I discovered a young Zebra Finch flying about. Next day two more appeared; their nest was in a coconut shell, close to the Firefinches, and I had not been near it for fear of disturbing the latter. The Zebra Finches nested again in October, and four strong young ones left the nest about November 1st. They don't seem to mind the present cold spell a bit. The old cock was a most attentive father, and it was very amusing to watch him feeding the babies; he seemed to do most of this work after they left the nest. The second brood were reared almost entirely on seed, it being too late in the season to procure live food; dried flies and ants' eggs were supplied, but didn't seem very tempting to the birds.

I have had no other breeding success, but am quite satisfied with the result of my first season.

In August I decided to get rid of the Cutthroats, Nuns and Javas, because of the damage they were doing to the growing shrubs, the Nuns being particularly mischievous. I replaced them with waxbills—St. Helena's, Orange-cheeks, and Blue-breasts.

One morning in July I heard a commotion going on in the aviary, and, looking out, saw a young bird on the wires, outside. It was a young Goldfinch just out of the nest, and my old cock was busy feeding it through the wires. I caught the baby and put him inside, and the old cock immediately took him in hand, and was most assiduous, feeding him until he could forage for himself. I was then supplying the birds with a lot of greenfly, and the young Goldfinch lived prnicipally on these. Unfortunately he caught a cold when I had had

him about a month, and I was not able to save him; I thought i rather unusual for an old cock bird to take on foster duties so successfully. I am hoping that some of my waxbills will breed next summer. The more delicate ones came in to their winter quarters last week (Article received November 26.—Ed.)

Fiji's Attraction.

AMERICAN VISITOR'S TRIP.—BEAUTIES OF VANUA LEVU.

Reprinted extracts from *The Fiji Times and Herald* of October 9th, with our acknowledgments and thanks.—Ed. B.N.

Dr. Casey Wood, the American ornithologist, returned on Saturday from one of his expeditions to secure paintings and to investigate the habits of the birds of Fiji—about eighty species in all.

Asked by a representative of the "Fiji Times and Herald" to say something about his recent trip, he replied: "With Mr. W. J. Belcher, my artist companion, I left Suva on the 'Sir John Forrest' especially to study the birds of the Macuata Coast of Vanua Levu. We were very successful, having been able to find a number of birds rare in, or entirely unknown to the other islands of this group. Among these was the beautiful Bunedamo or Orange Dove. This bird (*Chrysoenas victor*) is not to be confounded with the better known Golden Dove, although that engaging little creature and his pretty little green mate are also among the wonders of the Fijian avifauna. If one has not seen the male Orange Dove (which really ought to be called the Flame-coloured Dove) it is necessary to visualize a bird about eight inches long, with a short but rather broad tail, with a velvety-green cap, while the remainder of the body (wings, back, tail, breast and abdomen) is clothed in a gorgeous dress of deep but brilliant orange. In his flight through the forest, with the sunlight on him as he flies, he reminds one of the passing of a rocket on a dark night. When the Government establishes, perhaps in connection with the Tourist Bureau, an aviary that both visitors and residents may see and admire one of the chief glories of Fiji—its remarkable bird life—the Flame-coloured Dove will

Photo by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Nest and Eggs of White-breasted Waterhen.

figure as one of the outstanding attractions and valuable assets of the Islands.

THE MACUATA DISTRICT.

Thanks to the courtesies extended to him by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the C.S.R. and the officers of the Fiji Shipping Co., Dr. Casey-Wood was also able to investigate, in a comparatively short time, a number of interesting peculiarities of the Macuata District. He was much impressed by both the climate and scenic conditions of the Coast, and wonders why people of Suva do not take advantage of its refreshing air and other recuperating agencies.

The Nesting of the White-breasted Waterhen. *(Erythra phoenicura).*

By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

It must be at least seven years ago that I first kept this handsome bird. At that time I got two pairs from our Editor, Mr. Wesley T. Page, and I have never been without one or more of these birds in my aviaries since. Whether any of the original birds are still with me it is impossible to say. From time to time I have picked up a single bird at the dealers, but until this last spring I have never seen more than one bird in any of the shops at the same time.

This year De Von's had several, and I bought four of them. One died on arrival, its feathers being all gummed up by the food on which it had been fed--gramm, I believe--another had a mortified foot, which had to be amputated, and the other two were in good condition. These birds were turned in with my others. Just how many of my old birds had survived the winter I don't know, but probably a couple, so I had every chance of a true pair amongst them. In previous years I probably had the one sex only, as although nests had often been built, no attempt at laying had been made. This spring several nests were built in the rushes, but when I left for my holiday no eggs had been laid, and I thought that the results would be the same as in previous years, viz. *nil.*

However, once in a while, even in aviculture, one gets an agreeable surprise to make up for the many disappointments, and when I was in the aviary shortly after my return from abroad at the end of June, I noticed a small black bird darting into the rushes. For a moment I could not imagine what it could be, but after remaining perfectly still for some quarter of an hour, I saw a little black head peeping out of the rushes, and realised that I had got a little moorhen at last.

From its size I judged it to be about a month old. As far as I could see it was jet black, including its legs and beak. By taking cover in a neighbouring aviary I found that there were at least two chicks. They were extremely shy, and only came out of the thick rushes very occasionally, the parents taking the food—bread and milk, and biscuit meal—to them. The old birds consume a large quantity of seed, but as I did not see how they could carry this to the little ones, I began to scatter this twice daily on the edge of the pond, and very soon I found that the young ones were picking it up.

I had every hope of raising them, but about this time I had an invasion of rats, and a Californian Quail in the same aviary lost twelve young ones from this cause. A skilled ratcatcher was engaged, but, before he bagged any rats, he caught one of the adult moorhens by the leg, which had to be amputated, and the bird, rather to my astonishment, died from the shock. I was afraid at first that it might be the hen, and that the young ones which were still being fed by her would suffer, but luckily this was not the case. However, shortly after this I had a stroke of bad luck, picking up one of the young ones dead. It was about half grown and just beginning to show the white breast. The survivor, which was the smaller bird of the two, continued to grow, although it could only be seen by patiently watching from a place of concealment. It now began to eat quite a lot of seed, preferring this apparently to the soft food; it was quite independent of its mother. Its breast now began to show considerable white, although I think not so much as our own moorhen chicks do at the same age.

At the time of writing it is practically full grown, but is very much darker in the white parts than its parents. These

White-breasted Waterhen carrying food to young.

Photos by W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

White-breasted Waterhen and Young One about three months old.

birds make good aviary inmates, inasmuch as they are easy to cater for, but are quarrelsome amongst themselves in the breeding season. The noise they make then is appalling, squawks, screams, and yells in every conceivable kind of note make night hideous, and one occasionally gets a burst of it in the day time also. They are adepts at hiding, and one sometimes fails to see them for weeks at a time. I think that, like our own birds, they feed a good deal by night.

Mr. E. H. Aitken, in a letter which was published in "Stray Feathers," has given a very interesting account of the nidification of this species in the neighbourhood of Bombay. He says:—

"In September 1868 I was living at Bombay in a house surrounded by very low-lying fields, which were under water nearly all the monsoon, and of course became the resort of various water-birds. Among them this year were half-a-dozen of this *Gallinula*, which very soon made their presence known by their awful cries. I cannot understand Dr. Jerdon dismissing the cry of this bird, if he ever heard it during the breeding-season, with the words 'has a loud call.' Anything more unearthly proceeding from the throat of a bird I never heard. It began with loud harsh roars which might have been elicited from a bear by roasting it slowly over a large fire, then suddenly change to a clear note repeated like the coo of a Dove. Often in the morning two or three of these birds might be seen in some little open space, fighting like young cock-chickens."

"When flushed they seldom flew far, seeming to trust more to their legs than their wings. After a time the cries ceased, and the birds were rarely seen, so I concluded they must have their nests now, and set myself to find them. Day after day I waded through the dirty water and long grass (in which I had myself caught gigantic water-bugs, nearly three inches long, and other horrible creatures innumerable), searching every accessible bush and likely place along the edges of the fields, but all in vain. The birds were there, for I often flushed them, but for a long time all my efforts to find the nest were utterly baffled."

"It little occurred to me that while I was poking among bushes and grass where orthodox birds of that class ought to breed, my Water-hen might be sitting over my head, looking down at me. One morning, however, a native cultivator, whom I had told to search also, happened to see one of the birds going up a middle-sized date-palm that stood out of the water, in the top of which there seemed to be an old Crow's nest. He was soon up too, and after clearing away a good deal of rubbish, he took down the nest and brought it to me in triumph. The nest was rather flat, but might have been an old Crow's. It contained four eggs of a brownish-white colour, not very thickly covered with spots of three colours—light brown, dark rusty brown, and pale purplish-blue. They were rather larger than a Crow's. I was sorry to find, however, that they were very nearly hatched;

the whole four were cracked, and I could hear the chicks chirping distinctly inside; so I made the man go up again and fix the nest securely in its place, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing the old bird making its way up to it, not flying, but running up the rough bark of the date like a ladder. A day or two after the nest was empty, and at the bottom of the tree I found a fragment of an egg, which I have before me now. I was anxious to know how the bird would get its young ones down, but I failed to catch it in the act."

These birds were first received at the "Zoo" with the Prince of Wales' Indian collection.

The Foreign Birds at Torquay Show.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The annual show of the Torquay Fur and Feather Society was a great success in all its sections, but the Foreign Bird Section was a unique success, largely due to the energy and enthusiasm of Capt. G. E. Rattigan, well-backed by the Committee. It was under the patronage of *The Foreign Bird Club*, and the F.B.C. Medal for most points gained by a member of F.B.C. was won by Mr. H. Whitley. The majority of the entries, too, were from members of F.B.C., the principal being the Marquis of Tavistock, Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, Miss O. Blackburn, Mr. H. Whitley and Capt. G. E. Rattigan.

As it also fell to my lot to place the awards in this section, it may not be out of place here to explain the grounds upon which these were based. I considered that any species which were admitted to any given class ought to meet on *common ground* (i.e. equal terms), viz: condition, but that other things being equal extreme beauty and rarity were entitled to a few extra points, and, I placed the cards accordingly—the task taking over five hours.

I have to confess to two errors (1) failing to note that a pair of what I took to be exceptionally fine Cutthroats were a pair of Red-headed Finch × Cutthroat hybrids. (2) Passing a Gold-breasted Waxbill ♂ and a ♀ Avadavat as a pair of the former. This occurred in the last two classes judged, about 3 p.m. of a very dull day—two hours later, with lights turned up. I took a leisurely walk round the section, and to my huge

personal disgust discovered my error, but, of course, though hybrids were ineligible in a class for species the placings had to stand.

I noted the following as some of the rarest and most beautiful species staged: Yellow-lored Amazon Parrot, Turquoise-rumped Passerine Parrakeet, Red-crested Finch, Lazuli Bunting, Amethyst Starling, Blyth's Starling, Superb Spreo (Glossy Starling), African Crimson-crowned Barbet, Satin Bower-bird, Senegal Touracou, Guatamelan Blue Jay, a pair of Tanagridae whose species I failed to recognise, Saltators or something closely akin, I think—also, I believe, new to aviculture. One was pleased to see staged once more a perfect specimen of the Nicobar Pigeon—other gorgeous and uncommon exhibits were Purple Sunbird and Occipital Blue-pie; one noted with much satisfaction that nearly all the above were good enough to win on condition alone, but, alas! it was impossible for all to gain premier honours in their respective classes, and, separating them was a most unpleasant, if interesting, and thankless task. The entries reached a total of 150 in this section, and were, apparently, the attraction of the show.

I congratulate Capt. Rattigan and the Committee on such an unique success accruing to their efforts, for I certainly consider that a better (if as good) or rarer collection of foreign birds has not been staged anywhere in the British Isles since the Armistice.

Budgerigars (13): 1, Sp. and C., Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, the former an exquisite pair of Royal Blues (a new colour form) and the latter a good Blue. 2, Rattigan, pair of good Greens. 3, Blackburn, beaten colour and condition. 4, Silver, good light Yellow. V.H.C., Tickell, Green. H.C., Chudleigh, Yellow.

A very interesting class, giving some indication of the number of colour varieties that have been evolved by careful selection and breeding from the common Green species. Mrs. Dalton-Burgess's pair of Royal Blues (so called by Capt. G. E. Rattigan) were the first of this colour I had seen—a sort of admixture of cobalt and ultramarine shot with purple, yet very clear, even and distinct; the hen bird's tail was minus one or two feathers, but in spite of this handicap they were well ahead of

all others. Capt. Rattigan's (2nd prize) Blue was a very fine specimen, light cobalt-blue, quite one of the best of this colour form I have seen. The cardless exhibits were mostly of good colour, but not tight in feather, and a little soft.

Grey, Senegal, and B. F. Amazon Parrots, Ring-neck Parrakeets (all species), Roseate and S.-C. Cockatoos (7). 1, Sp., 2, Whitley, 1st an exquisite Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (bred by owner), "in the pink." 2, tame Grey Parrot, perfect plumage and condition. 3, V.H.C., H.C., Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, 3, a very fine, richly coloured Roseate Cockatoo, perfect condition; V.H.C., fine Blossom-head Parrakeet; H.C., an equally good Ring-neck. 4, Miss Froude, Blossom-head Parrakeet, lovely colour and tight plumage. C., Mrs. Martin, a nice B. F. Amazon.

An interesting lot of well known species all in good form, the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo being of special interest to aviculturists, owing to it being an English-bred bird; it was bred, in a state of restrained liberty, by Mr. Whitley about three years ago, and a finer specimen of its species has never adorned the English show-bench.

Parrot, Cockatoo and Macaw not previously mentioned (10). 1, Sp., H.C., Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, 1, Moluccan Cockatoo in perfect condition and feather; H.C., a good Eclectus, lovely colour but plumage dry and wiry. 2, 3, 4, H.C., and C., Whitley, a grand team, hard lines some could not have been higher; 2, a fine Grand Eclectus Parrot; 3, a tame Hawk-headed Caique, a gem and a youngster; 4, very rare Yellow-lored Amazon, dropping a few feathers; H.C., another fine Eclectus; C., a rare Yellow-headed Caique, plumage soiled and a wee-bit soft.

A fine class of gorgeous apparelled birds, containing several potential Firsts, hard to separate. Good specimens of Grand Eclectus and Bare-eyed Cockatoo were also staged.

Lovebirds and Certain Parrakeets (12). 1, Sp., Rattigan, a perfect Red-rump Parrakeet, "in the pink," a good first. 2, Marquis of Tavistock, Turquoise-rumped Passerine Parrakeet, loses on condition. 3, Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, a good pair of Red-faced Lovebirds. 4 and H.C., Silver, Red-faced Lovebirds and Tui Parrakeets, good but showing evidence of a

long journey. V.H.C., Miss Froude, good Rosy-faced Lovebirds. C., Whitley, very fine All-Green Parrakeet.

Also staged Tovi, Orange-flanked, and Passerine Parrakeets, and Cockateels, most of which showed signs of being newly acquired, but, as a whole, making an interesting array of the smaller-sized parrakeets. The one rare exhibit was the Marquis of Tavistock's Turquoise-rumped Passerine Parrakeet, not known in this country as a living bird prior to this year. A feature of this class was the number of different species staged, but those not placed were not tight in plumage—either new acquisitions, or feeling the effects of a long, cold rail-journey.

A.O. Species Parrakeets and Lorikeets (11). 1, 3, Sps. and 2, Marquis of Tavistock, former the most perfect Rock Peplar I have ever seen, and, the latter an almost equally perfect Queen Alexandra, both birds "in the pink." 3, V.H.C., H.C. and C., Whitley, Red-collared Lorikeets (perfect), Barnard's Nenday and Mealy Rosella Parrakeets, in the order given, hard lines not to be higher. 4, Mrs. Skey, good King Parrakeet, a young bird not yet in full adult plumage.

There really ought to have been three equal firsts in this fine class, and it was a thankless task to separate them as above. All the species are well known—the Rock Peplar being an exceptionally fine specimen of its kind, very steady and fearless, yet its owner informed me that it had been flying loose in his garden all the year, and was only caught and caged for despatch to the show!

Mannikins and Other Freely Imported Species (26). 1, 2 Sps., Rattigan, perfect pair of aviary-bred Quail Finches, well ahead. 2, V.H.C., Whitley, White Java Sparrows and Paradise Whydah in the order given, the former very fine, clean and without blemish. 3, 4, H.C., and C., Miss Blackburn, Cutthroats and Silverbills in the order given.

A rather bewitching array of Weavers, Whydahs and Finches were also staged, and here occurred one of the two errors confessed to in my opening remarks, in the dull afternoon light I failed to note that the pair of Cutthroats placed third were Red-headed Finch × Cutthroat hybrids; unless very minutely examined they were simply a large pair of extra fine

Cutthroats, the latter species being strikingly dominant—two hours later, judging over and lights turned up, I spotted my error at once—nevertheless they were worth their position. The Weavers did not reach the cards, inasmuch most of them showed palpable signs of a season's " wear and tear " in their plumage.

Common Fire Finches, Waxbills, Etc. (12). 1, 2 Sps., 2, and H.C., Rattigan, exquisite pair Lavender Finches, well ahead; a fine pair of Cordon Bleus, very sleek, tight and steady, good second; H.C., good Avadavats. 3, 4, Miss Blackburn, nice pairs of Gold-breasted, and Grey Waxbills in the order given. V.H.C., and C., Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, pairs of Lavender Finches and Cordon Bleus, both evidently feeling the effects of travelling. Also staged other pairs of above and Orange-cheek Waxbills.

Might I be permitted in the midst of a report to interpolate a word of warning, i.e., keep birds intended for exhibition in as cool quarters as possible, especially so for seven days before any show they are to appear at— they are then less likely to show, or suffer from, the effects of a long, cold, rail journey.

A.O. Species of Seed-eater (16). 1, 2 Sps. and 4, Rattigan, Red-crested Finch, a beauty, in perfect bloom and condition; 4, good Red-headed Gouldian Finch. 2, V.H.C., ex. V.H.C., H.C., and ex. H.C., Whitley, rare Lazuli Bunting, a youngish bird; good Rainbow Bunting, and a Great White-headed Weaver in the order given, the last named not yet in tight-feather; ex. V.H.C. and H.C., American Grosbeak and a perfect Diuca Finch, not often seen on the show-bench. 3, Silver, nice pair Violet-eared Waxbills.

A very interesting class, but rather a bewildering one to judge, would have been more so, but for the fact that some nice pairs of Gouldian Finches and Violet-eared Waxbills were either newish acquisitions, or feeling the effects of a long, cold rail-journey.

Doves, Pigeons and Quail (11). 1, 2 Sps., 3, 4, and H.C., Whitley, a grand specimen of Nicobar Pigeon, fine bloom, without blemish; White-crowned Pigeon; 4, perfect pair Peaceful Doves; H.C., nice Cuban Colin. 2, V.H.C. (3) and C., Rattigan, pair Californian Quail, perfect and steady; three

equal V.H.C., pair Chinese Quail, perfect condition, good Plumed Ground Dove, pair Palm Doves, in perfect feather and bloom; C., Diamond Doves.

A most interesting class and all remarkably steady for such species.

A. S. Fruiteater and Softbill (13). 1, 4 Sps., 2., V.H.C., H.C., and C., Rattigan, Purple Sunbird, "spic and span," absolutely perfect; Amethyst Starlings, rare, interesting and beautiful; V.H.C., Yellow-wing Sugarbird, perfect but out of colour; H.C., Af. Crimson-crowned Barbet; C., grand Pekin Robin. Ex. 2, 3, V.H.C., and ex. H.C., Whitley, pair Saltators (species?), new to show-bench, rare; Indian Blue Flycatcher; perfect Glossy Starling; fine Pagoda Mynah. Ex. 3, 4., Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, Superb Spreo, well named, a superb bird; fine pair Blue Sugarbirds, wee-bit soft.

A wonderful class of gorgeous exotic birds, with very little indeed between the first half dozen of them. There were also staged good specimens of Red-eared Bulbul, and Blyth's Starling, the latter a species very seldom met with on the English Bird Market. Capt. Rattigan's Amethyst Starlings were a very fine and interesting pair, the hen being almost as attractive as her gorgeously apparelled mate, her plumage, colour and pattern being very similar to that of the male Wilson's Wood Thrush, the colours being pure, pattern sharply defined, the whole plumage having a silky surface.

A.O. Species (10). 1, 4 Sps., 2, 3, 4, V.H.C. (2), H.C. and C., Whitley, Senegal Touracou, superb and without blemish; Occipital Blue-pie, well staged, faultless condition; Grey-backed Piping Crow, again faultless; Guatamelan Blue Jay, a dazzling combination of glistening black, white, blue and green, "in the pink"; Yucatan Jay, good condition; 'Severn Sisters" Babbler, a rare exhibit; Hill Mynah; Blue-cheeked Barbet; truly a grand team. Ex. 2, Mrs. Dalton-Burgess, Satin Bower Bird in faultless condition, like silk.

Perhaps the most perplexing class of all for the judge, for certainly eight of the ten entries were potential firsts! All the entries except one were from Mr. H. Whitley—a team of which any exhibitor might well be proud.

Members—Large (3). 1, 2, 3, Miss Blackburn, hen Whydah (won on condition), Green Budgerigars, Paradise Whydah in the order given.

Members—Small (6). 1, 3, Miss Blackburn, pairs of Zebra Finches and Af. Silverbills, both perfect condition. 2, and H.C., Hawkins, Combasou, tight and silky; Orange Weaver, wee bit soft. Also staged Grey Java Sparrow and pair of Red-headed × Cutthroat Finch hybrids; this pair were palpable hybrids.

Keeping and Feeding Hardbills.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(*Concluded from page 108*).

Parrots and Parrakeets: This is a huge subject for a single chapter, for popularly, though there are scientific divisions, it practically includes the whole parrot-tribe (*Psittacidae*), i.e., all parrots, parrakeets, lovebirds, cockatoos, macaws, lories, and lorikeets, while the individual species are legion. The only way we can practically cover the ground is by grouping them, and dealing with feeding and treatment as a whole; one exception to this will be Lories and Lorikeets, which are brush-tongued parrots, feeding in a state of nature on fruit, pollen, nectar from flowers, and undoubtedly insects.

I shall adopt no regular order in the placing of the groups—the convenient arrangement will be alphabetical, and the necessary Groups are as follows:—

Cockatoos: No explanation needed here, as all these birds are described by the one name cockatoo.

Lories and Lorikeets: It is not easy to define this group, save as brush-tongued parrots, as Lory and Lorikeet may be said to be popular terms having about the same significance as parrot and parrakeet. In this group, for convenience sake, I must include Hanging Parrakeets (*Loriculus*), which are also brush-tongued, living in their native haunts on fruit, pollen, and nectar.

Macaws: This group also needs no explanation, as all its members bear the name macaw.

Parrakeets: In this group besides those bearing the cognomen "parrakeet" we must include the Budgerigar,

Cockateel, all Conures, Caiques, and Lovebirds. Among those bearing the name parrakeet are the Ring-necks, Australian Broadtails (such as Rosellas, Stanleys, Pennants, etc.), all Ring-necks, etc.

Parrots: This group includes all species bearing the popular appellation "parrot" such as Greys, Amazons, Eclectus, etc.

With this introduction I think even the novice reader will understand what species are referred to when the above group titles are used in the course of this chapter. *G*

Accommodation.

Cockatoos and Macaws: These can easily be grouped together under this heading, both groups being large, powerful birds, with formidable beaks of great cutting power. Few have the convenience to keep them in aviaries, but for any aviculturist desirous of doing so, I will merely say that these must consist of shelter and flight, and, that these must be constructed of iron or steel, for nothing else will confine them. I may say I have seen some cockatoos confined in ordinary wood and wire aviaries, but whenever, from *ennui* or other causes, they wished to escape it would cost them no effort to cut their way out.

They are easily kept in cages, of the strongly made ordinary type dispersed by bird-dealers, but, even then, a few yards of strong wire should be kept at hand for immediate repair, as, if they set about it, they can cut their way through quite thick wire. Fortunately few try to do so, but I have seen enough cases to make this warning necessary.

They are sociable birds, mostly soon become tame and attached to their owners and have no desire to escape, in fact are happy and contented if properly treated.

They may also be kept on stands, being attached to same by a swivel chain—such may be obtained from any bird stores.

Parrots: The same applies, but in a lesser degree. I have seen and known of Grey, Senegal, Amazon, Eclectus, etc., being confined in ordinary wood and wire aviaries which never tried to make their escape (cut their way out). I, myself, so kept a pair of Blue-fronted Amazons for three years, which were very contented in their aviary, and never attempted to cut their way out; they were happiest when some one was in the

aviary playing with them—unfortunately I lost two hens from eggbinding and then returned the cock to cage-life, and he was quite content, in fact apparently happy to be always among human folk again.

Lories, Lorikeets and Parrakeets: These can all be kept in ordinary wood and wire aviaries, and only require watching because of their mischievousness—true they attack woodwork at times (it is quite natural for them to do so), but if all projections and exposed corners are covered with netting or sheet iron (quite thin sheet suffices, tin answers the purpose) they will give little trouble in this respect, but use up their energy in wittling away the branches supplied for perching accommodation. To encourage nesting, hollow logs, small barrels, or concave bottom boxes must be supplied.

Most of them are quite content with cage-life and live happily so; many will become finger-tame and very attached to the one who looks after them; they can be allowed a fly round the room and will perch about one's person. There are few species which should not be so kept, notably the Australian Broadtails, which, in the writer's opinion, ought not to be kept in a cage—though he has known individuals of these so kept successfully; they are, however, a restful, active species, much on the wing; the majority are mopy and uninteresting when caged and certainly convey by their apathetic manner the idea of being unhappy also.

Before leaving Parrakeets and Lorikeets, I had better state some idea as to the extent of accommodation—I have recently erected a series of three aviaries, which are intended for parrakeets. The shelter shed is of the lean-to type, constructed of wood, greater portion of front glazed—the size is 24ft. long, 8ft. wide, and 8ft. high at the front, sloping to 6½ft. at the back—it is divided into three divisions, each having a floor space 8ft. square. From the front of shed I am extending a 15ft. flight, and each section is intended to house a pair of parrakeets—one section may be given up to Blue and blue-bred Green Budgerigars—I may add that I am hoping to induce at least two pairs of widely separated species to live and breed together in amity. Besides banjo-type nest boxes I am installing long lengths of half-rotten tree stems and trunks from 9 to 15 inches in diameter. I should like to add that a pair of

Photo E. O. Page.

Facsimile of F.B.C. Breeding Medal

Size of Medal 2 in. dia.

Broadtails and other species have reared young in a small covered in aviary 8ft. square, with only the front wire netting; also, in a similar aviary, in Surrey, Quaker Parrakeets built a nest and reared young successfully, several years in succession, though they had the company of a small flock of Budgerigars, pair of Cockateels, odd male Ring-neck and Rosella Parrakeets. Such cases, however, are exceptional. It is also an indisputed fact that if the males do not get plenty of wing exercise the percentage of infertile eggs is rather large—these facts should be borne in mind when planning new aviaries.

I had hoped to complete this series in this volume, but time and space have been too much for me, and the concluding instalment must appear in the first issue of B.N. for 1924.

To be concluded.

Editorial.

Breeding Medals: Will any member entitled to these please send the Hon. Editor a list of their claims at once; the medals for 1923 will shortly be distributed and we do not desire any omissions. During 1923 we had dies sunk and now have our own Club Breeding Medal, a facsimile of which is opposite—we hope this will draw members' attention to the medal and thereby stimulate competition for them. The medal is sunk in bronze and is two inches in diameter.

The Medal is awarded to any member breeding a species or hybrid for the *first time* in the British Isles. The young must be reared to the point of being able to fend for themselves.

Retrospect: Such is only pleasing when everything goes well, but, in any case, such is always of practical interest.

As regards our Roll, we hoped a year ago to have made some progress towards pre-war level—this hope has not been realised, indications point to it being a case of "as you were"!

Re an increased number of contributors, some little progress has been made, but much is yet needed in this direction.

There has been no retrogression in The Club Journal. From circumstances beyond our control *Bird Notes* has only

made its appearance bi-monthly, but it has been well illustrated and its contents of a practical and diversified character, and the volume just completed runs into 180 pages irrespective of plates and inset.

As to the FUTURE we will leave consideration of this to the first issue of the next volume; merely stating that for the present we shall continue to issue bi-monthly, and that part I. will appear as near February 15th as possible—further, we hope to issue two coloured plates during the year, and, that these will be worthy OUR PAST, only such will be issued.

All that is required to restore us to the full vigour of the PAST is: An increased roll, more copy for the Journal, and more personal interest in F.B.C. by its individual members.

EXHIBITING FOREIGN BIRDS: We are pleased to note a revival in this phase of aviculture. As will be seen from the Report, elsewhere in this issue, due to the enterprise of Capt. Rattigan and a few other F.B.C. members who gave generous support, the *Foreign Bird Section* at Torquay was a great success. It was quite like pre-war times to look upon so goodly an array of rare and gorgeous exotic species, as well as many beautiful and perfect specimens of the more *freely imported* species, at Torquay, and we accept this as a happy augury for the future. Such exhibitions are educative and of great interest to the general public.

Post Mortem Reports.

For Rules vide *page ii. of cover.*

NOVEMBER.

8th. PEKIN ROBIN: Mrs. M. A. Grossmith, Bickley, Kent.—The bird showed all the signs of old age, the aorta being atheromatous; there was a terminal congestion of the lungs.

18th. PEKIN ROBIN (♂): H. J. Turner, Newton Abbott.—The bird was very fat, there was a fatty degeneration of the liver; the œsophagus was packed with the remains of a spider and a large quantity of seed; this had caused some displacement of the gizzard, which was forced down into the pelvis. Other organs were normal. There was no evidence of bruising or injury.

19th. CORDON BLEU (♀): Spencer Nairne.—Answered by post.

29th. Grey Parrot (♂): Mrs. Dennis, Lisle Court, Wotton Bridge.—Signs of old age were present; the bird was suffering from arteriosclerosis a clot of blood was present on the brain; this must have accounted for its sudden death.

27th. Cockatiel (♀), Budgerigar (♂) (Blue var.): Mrs. Grossmith, Bickley, Kent.—Answered by post.

DECEMBER.

Waxbill (♀): S. Nairne, M.R.C.S.—Congestion of lungs and fatty degeneration of liver.

The following were all answered by post:

2 Canaries: Mrs. W. H. Read.

3 Gouldian Finches: Mrs. M. A. Grossmith.

Cuban Finch and Bluebird: H.G. The Duchess of Wellington.

Blue Tanager and Quail: Capt. Stokes, M.C.

C. H. HICKS.

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ERRATA.—Page 144 for "Benguella Sparrow (*Passer zagoensis benguellensis*)", read Benguela Sparrow (*Passer jagoensis*), etc.

The Foreign Bird Club.

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For Committees and other Officers vide *February issue.*

Notices to Members.

Late Issue of Bird Notes: Of course, the necessity for revision of Roll is the cause of the delay with this issue, but we hope future issues will appear nearer the proper publishing date. However, the Hon. Editor cannot "make bricks without straw," neither can an issue be rushed together in a few days if it is to be a JOURNAL worthy the name! The whole question of punctual appearance is a matter of copy, and the Hon. Editor expects your support and co-operation.

Membership: The Roll as it appears in this issue has been carefully revised, but it is sadly depleted as compared with 1914, fully one-third less. We need to fill the gaps and we are assured that if each individual member would make F.B.C. and its Journal "B.N.," also the advantages of membership, known to all of their friends and acquaintances who are interested in

birds, fully a hundred members could be added almost at once—we strongly press this upon the thoughtful attention of each member.

Breeding Medals: Will members who are entitled to same please send in their claims for 1922 at once, so that the medals may be put in hand and distributed forthwith.

Register of Club Breeders: Members are requested to refer back to Bird Notes (green pages) for January, 1922, and notify the Hon. Editor of any alterations or corrections, so that a revised Register may appear in February Bird Notes.

Hon. Business Sec.: A. E. SNAPE.
Hon. Editor: W. T. PAGE.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. The smallest donation will be thankfully acknowledged, both by the Hon. Sec. and in this Journal.

	£	s.	d.
Baily, W. Shore, F.Z.S.	0	10	0
Bath, Marchioness of	0	1	0
Browning, W. H.	0	10	0
Chawner, Miss E. F.	0	5	0
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Cushney, Chas.	0	10	0
Harbord, Miss M. L.	0	5	0
Paterson, Mrs.	0	5	0
Perreau, Mrs. G. A.	0	10	0
Pettigrew, M.	0	10	0
Robbins, H.	0	10	0
Rogers, W. T.	0	10	0
Sprankling, E.	0	1	0
Stokes, Capt. H. S.	0	10	0
Street, E.	0	10	0
Valentine, E.	1	0	0
Wellington, The Duchess of	1	0	0

New Members Elected.

Mons. C. Cordier, Werdgutg, 7, Zurich, Switzerland.

Register of Club Breeders.

This will appear in full in February issue; members on same are requested to advise the Hon. Editor of any alterations or corrections they require at once—for reference see 1922 Register, green pages, January Bird Notes, 1922.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: ONE PENNY PER WORD; MINIMUM ONE SHILLING. Non-members and all Trade advertisers must apply to the Agents (*vide* page *iii.* of cover). Advertisements for respective issues must be sent to the Hon. Editor not later than the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

EXCHANGE: True pair, delightfully tame, Canary-winged Parrakeets for hen Red-faced Lovebird and cock Blue-winged Lovebird, or sell.—Bearby, Church Street, West Hartlepool.

FOR SALE: Pair Californian Quail, adults, 40s. pair.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Gouldian Finches (Red and Black) Long-tailed and Masked Grassfinches.—Chaplin, Great Amwell, Ware, Herts.

RULES.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members in keeping and breeding all species of Birds, and the exhibiting of Foreign Birds and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 5s., and an annual subscription of 20s. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's subscription shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member accordingly, *but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.*

3. New Members shall be proposed in writing by a Member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the Candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two Members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more Members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any Candidate he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice *he shall be liable for the following year's subscription.*

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the Members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, a

Council of Twenty-four Members and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, President and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council.

Three Members of the Council shall retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th November and the 5th December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the Members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each Member of the Club, on or about the 15th of November, a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each Member shall make a (×) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each Candidate, and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for Decem' .r. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the president shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any Member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of Members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any Candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a Member of this Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between Members, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between Members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days, the proposed alterations or additions shall be submitted to the votes of the Members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a Candidate at any Election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time than at the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have pawer to appoint any Member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of a majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Rules Governing Club's Patronage at Shows.

1. The Patronage of the F.B.C. is given at all OPEN SHOWS, provided the following conditions are observed.

   (*a*) At least three classes must be provided for *FOREIGN BIRDS* (excluding local and members' classes, in which no bird competing for F.B.C. patronage may be shown).

   (*b*) The classification and name of the judge must be submitted by Show Secretaries, when applying for patronage.

   (*c*) Those societies obtaining patronage must print in the schedule that the section is under the patronage of the F.B.C.

   (*d*) That no alteration (amalgamation or cancellation) of classes must be made, or the judges changed without giving notice to the Hon. Show Secretary of the F.B.C., in which case the original patronage does not hold good.

2. All MEDALS are awarded to BEST BIRDS (but the Committee have the right to award extra medals for special purposes) and no silver medal is granted where less than six classes are provided.

3. Members of the F.B.C. *must* place F.B.C. after each entry on entry forms, and should request show secretaries to print these initials in their catalogues.

4. No Member can win more than two medals in a season, *i.e.*; one silver and one bronze, or more than one medal at the same show.

5. The London Silver Cup is offered for competition at all Shows under patronage in the London Postal District, where ten or more classes are given, and the Provincial Silver Cup at Shows outside this area, for points gained throughout the season by nominated birds.

6. These Cups become the property of those who have won them three times (not necessarily in succession), and only three birds at each Show can be nominated, which is done by writing the word " Cup " after the entries on entry form. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that show.

7. These conditions only hold good where Show Societies and Members observe the rules. Failure to conform annuls all offers, and the birds

of a member whose subscription is unpaid at the time of making an entry are ineligible to compete.

8. Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 7 points; 2nd, 6 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place, the member taking the most prize money to win.

9. Any item not herein provided for, may be dealt with at the discretion of The Show Committee.

Rules Re Breeding Medals.

1. The F.B.C. Medal for Breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in captivity in Great Britain, will be awarded on the following conditions only:

   (*a*) As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in BIRD NOTES as soon as the young can fend for themselves.

   (*b*) The Awards Committee, whose decision shall be final, to make the awards from the Secretary's data, and the published articles recording successes.

   (*c*) The awards will be made, and the medals distributed at the close of each successive season, or as soon afterwards as the publication of said articles permit.

2. SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

3. HYBRIDS: For any cross not previously reared in captivity, between any two species—the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognised, e.g., Parson Finch × Long-tailed Grassfinch, and Long-tailed Grassfinch × Parson Finch are reckoned as the same Hybrid for the purposes of this award, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record will not be eligible for a medal.

ROLL OF MEMBERS.

Honorary Member.

FILLMER, H. R. (*Founder*), Brendon, 22, Harrington Road, Brighton.

AINSWORTH, A., 7 Poro Street, Kilbronie. Wellington, New Zealand. (August, 1920).

ALLAN, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).

AMSLER, Dr. MAURICE, Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).

ARNOLD, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W. 16. (March, 1912).

Arnott, Peter, Grant Street, Alloa. (December, 1913).
Atkinson, Capt. F. B., Gallowhill, Morpeth, Northumberland. (Aug. 1920).

Baily, W. Shore, F.Z.S., Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).
Bainbridge, Capt. W. A., Keynston Manor, Tarrant Keynston, Blandford. (September 1912).
Bamford, Wm., Bridgecroft, Kent Road, Harrogate. (June, 1904).
Barnard, T. T., Dungote Hall, Towcester. (1920).
Barnes, A. H., 34 Gledstaines Road, Baron's Court, London. W. (May, 1921)
Bartels, O., " Orchida," Mayne, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. (Jan. 1917)
Bath, Marchioness of, Longleat, Warminster. (May, 1921).
Batty, Capt. W. R., 11 Park Road, Southport. (October, 1915).
Bearby, W. R., 34, Church Street, West Hartlepool. (January, 1922).
Beebe, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).
Best, Cyril, Pye Bridge, Alfreton, Derbyshire. (August, 1921).
Birbeck, W. G., Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich. (September, 1920)
Blackburn, Miss O., Rock End, Torquay, S. Devon. (March, 1922).
Bolam, G. F., 1, Brook Terrace, Birtley, Durham. (March, 1922).
Boosey, E. J., The Cedars, Bromley Common, Kent. (February, 1921).
Boot, H., Finchfield, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield. (March, 1922).
Boothby, Capt. H. B., D.S.O., R.N.R., Ambleside, Weelsby, Grimsby, (June, 1922).
Bourke, Hon. Mrs. Gwendolin, 75 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London. W. 1. (Dec. 1909).
Bousfield, Miss M., Hazelmere, New Milton, Hants. (January, 1908).
Boyd, H. T., 34, Fortune Green Road, W. Hampstead, N.W. 6. (Rejoins,
Bright, Herbert, Woolton Tower, Woolton, Liverpool. (October, 1911).
Brook, E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan, Dumfrieshire. (Mar. 1908)
Browning, W. H., 16 Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).
Bufton, Reginald P., Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire. (Jan. 1913)
Burgess, Mrs., Helston House, 56 St. John Rd., Clifton, Bristol. (Sept. 1915).

Calvocoresi, P. J., Holme Hay, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool. (October, 1916)
Capern, F., Lewin's Mead, Bristol. (October, 1907).
Carr, Percy, Ormond Lodge, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon. (November, 1918).
Carr, R. H., Norman House, Uppingham Road, Bushby, Nr. Leicester. (November, 1919).
Case, Mrs. A. M., Holmbury, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne. (February, 1918).
Chaplin, Lady, Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia. ((July, 1914).
Chaplin, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Ware, Herefordshire. (Sept., 1903)
Chapman, 17, Tottenham Court Road, London, W. (June, 1922).
Chatterton, Mrs., Talodi, King's End Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex. (Jan. 1915)
Chawner, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).
Child, F. R., Braemar, Downs Road, Luton, Beds. (March, 1920).
Christie, Mrs. G., Kellas, By Elgin. (January, 1913).
Clarke, L. Hyde, Woodlands, St. Olave's, Gt. Yarmouh. (October, 1918).
Clarke, S., " Vue du Lac," Fermain, Guernsey. (August, 1911).

Cleeburg, Chas., junr., Bellevue House, Dumfries, N.B. (December, 1916)
Cole, Mrs. Eric, 35, Queens Gate, South Kensington, London. (Jan. 1920).
Connell, Mrs. Knatchbull, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants. (July, 1912)
Cook, Mrs. A. M., F.Z.S., 5 Lancaster Road, Hampstead, London, N.W. 3. (February, 1916).
Cordier, Mons. C., Werdgugt, 7, Zurich, Switzerland. (January, 1923).
Croker, Chas. E., Burrow Inch, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (October, 1911)
Crow, C. F., Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby. (October, 1915).
Currie, J., 54 Wetherby Road, Edinburgh. (August, 1913).
Cushny, Charles, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell and Haldane, 47 Watling St., St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem.)
Czarnikow, H., Hollongton House, Newbury. (February, 1922).

Davies, Mrs. M. H., St. Ann's, Tintern, Chepstow. (January, 1914).
Davey, R. W., 33 St. Luke's Road, Totterdown, Bristol. (November, 1919).
Decoux, A., Gery, Aixe-sur-Vienne, Haute-Vienne, France. (May, 1919).
Delacour, Jean, Chateau de Cleres, Cleres (Seine-Inferieure), France. (January, 1910).
Dennis, Mrs. Harold, Lisle Court, Wootton Bridge, I.O.W. (Jan, 1904).
Dennis, Mrs. Cyril, Oakley Hall, Market Drayton, Salop. (June, 1920).
Dell, C. E., 9 Greenhill Road, Harrow. (January, 1914).
Dickinson, Mrs. W. G., The Bridges, Upper Slaughter, Gloucester. (January, 1918).
Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).
Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, co. Down. (Nov. 1901).
Dyott, Miss Mary, Freeford, Lichfield. (November, 1912).

Ebrill, Wm., "Greenville," South Circular Road, Limerick. (April, 1906).
Edmunds, W., Blenheim, Park Road, Swanage, Dorset. (November, 1909).
Ezra, A., F.Z.S., Foxwarren Park, Cobham, Surrey. (January, 1911).
Ezra, D., 3 Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. (August, 1912).

Falkner, Guy, Boodles Club, St. James' St., London. W. 1. (Nov. 1916).
Fasey, Wm. R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook, N.E. (Jan. 1903).
Few, T. H., Hyde House, Hart Hill, Luton, Beds. (January, 1920).
Fisher, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).
Fitch-Daglish, Dr. E., F.Z.S., 8 Beaulieu Villas, Finsbury Park, London, N. 4. (April, 1919).
Ford, A. Freeman, 215 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (October, 1918).
Fowler-Ward, Dr. F., 40 Berners Street, Ipswich. (October, 1913).
Frost, W. J. C., 6 Wards Ave., Fulham, S.W. 6. (August, 1913).

Garcke, Mrs. C., Wye Lodge, Maidenhead. (June, 1916).
Gerrard, Miss M., Casa Frollo, Alla Guidecca, No. 50, Venice, Italy. (June, 1914).
Goodwin, T. J., 185 Old Kent Road, London, S.E. (January, 1920).
Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).
Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S., 1 Redfield Lane, Earls' Court Road, S.W. 5. (May, 1906).

Crossmith, Mrs. M. A., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (January, 1913).
Grove, Mrs. Julian, Brattemsley House, Lymington, Hants. (March, 1917)
Gurney, G. H., Keswick Hall, Norwich. (June, 1913).

Hand, Miss R., Brumcombe, Boars Hill, Oxford. (January, 1919).
Harbord, Miss M. L., Lorton Park House, Lorton, Cockermouth. (April 1916).
Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., c/o Thos. Cook and Sons, Calcutta, India. (October, 1907).
Harris, Chas., F.Z.S., 127 King's Cross Road, London, W.C. (April, 1910).
Harrison, T. O., 127 Hastings Street, Sunderland. (March, 1918).
Hartley, Mrs. E. A., Lynchfield, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton. (Sept. 1907).
Hawkins, J. H. E., Belvedere, Streetley Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. (April, 1915).
Hawkins, L. W., 20 Norton Folgate, London: E., 1. (Orig. Mem.).
Hebb, T., Brooklea, The Downs, Luton. (August, 1912).
Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (March, 1907).
Hewitt, T. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby. (April, 1909).
Hincks, Miss E. M., Easterlands, Wellington, Somerset. (December, 1904).
Hollas, Mrs. K. E., "Orta," Stuart Road, Preston. (October, 1922).
Hopkinson, Emilus, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (October, 1901).
Horsford, D. M., Bosvathic, Penryn, Cornwall. (August, 1922).
Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).
Hunnings, Lieut. A., F.S.I., Town Hall, Mare St., Hackney, London, N.E. (March, 1918).

Johnson, Miss L. Sturton, Orotava House, Ore, Hastings. (Sept., 1910).

Kennedy, Mrs. I. E., 7 Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).
Kewley, Mrs. M. A., Barwick House, Yeovil, Somerset. (September, 1910)
Knobel, Miss E. Maud, 32 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (Dec. 1911).

Li'callier, Mme. G., 109 Rue de la Republique, Candebee-Les-Elbeuf, Seine-Inf., France. (August, 1919).
Legh de Legh, Col. H., Shincliffe, near Durham. (April, 1911).
Lilford, The Lord, Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (January, 1914).
Livings, M. L., 39 Cambridge Road, Gunnersbury, W. 4. (March, 1920).
Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (February, 1909).
Low, G. E., 14 Royal Terrace East, Kingstown. (May, 1914).
Lowndes, Capt. D. G., Lansdowne, Garwhal, U.P. India. (March, 1920).
Lucas, Miss Emma, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex. (Sept., 1913).
Lucas, Capt. N. S., M.B., F.Z.S., (*Hon. Pathologist*), 19 Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. 2. (January, 1914).

McCall, Rev. R. Home, Thorne Rectory, Yeovil. (October, 1921).
MaDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., L.L.S., 4 Wimpole Street, London, W. (January, 1903)
McDonald, Miss B., The Cottage, Hollington Park, St. Leonard's-on-Sea. (Rejoined January, 1922).
Mackay, Kenneth S., Imber Cross, Thames Ditton, Surrey. (May, 1921).

Mackness, Mrs. N., Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley, N. (June, 1916)
Mappin, Stanley, 12 Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, London, S.W. (1921).
Marsden, J. W., F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Morecambe, Lancs. (March, 1914).
Marshall, M. M., South Grand Ave., Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (March, 1919).
Master, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov. 1903).
Maxwell-Jackson, Miss M., Berry End, Knaresborough, Yorks. (Jan. 1913).
Maxwell, C. T., 1 Sharderoft Aven., Herne Hill, S.E. (December, 1908).
Millsum, O., The Firs, Westwood, Margate. (July, 1907).
Mitchell, Capt. F. H., R.N., Hollybank, Emsworth, Hants. (June, 1922)
Molyneux, W., Rua Barao De Petropolis, 224, Rio de Janeiro. (Jan., 1922).
Montgomery, W. O., c/o Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Hornsea, Hull. (January, 1913).
Mortimer, Mrs., Wigmore, Beare Green, Surrey. (Orig. Mem.)
Mulvey, W. E., 5 Overleigh Road, Chester. (January, 1921).
Murton Marshall, 122 Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. 1. (Aug. 1913)

Nairne, Dr. S., Burleigh Mead, Hatfield, Herts. (January, 1920).

Oberholser, Harry C., 2805, 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (December, 1903).
O'Reilly, Nicholas S., 144 Eastern Road, Kemp Town, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.)

Page, W. T., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., (*Hon. Editor*), Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey (May, 1905).
Painter, V. Kenyon, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (November, 1910).
Parker, S. T., 42, Turner Road, Dereham Road, Norwich. (Rejoined January, 1922).
Paterson, Mrs. A., 15, Brunswick Gardens, Campden Hill, London, W., 8. (Rejoined January, 1922).
Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Glouc. (February, 1903).
Pettigrew, M., 6 Fifth Avenue, Kelvinside, Glasgow, W. (January, 1920).
Phillips, E. R., 12 Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Ireland. (September, 1915)
Pike, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).
Pilkington, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (September, 1908).
Pithie, Miss D. E., 68 Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth (rej. Jan. 1918)
Pollack, A. J., Loretto House, Heaton, Bradford. (August, 1917).
Pond, Mrs. T., Wylfa, Llangollen. (November, 1902).
Pope, Mrs. Howden, Tiverton, Devon. (February, 1914).
Porter, S., Selwyn House, Old Normanton, Derby. (August, 1920).
Potts, W., F.Z.S., 28, Union Street, Hyde, Cheshire. (April, 1922).
Powell, Miss M. M., Roselyn, Oakhill Park, Liverpool.
Prior, F., Nala, Mareschal Road, Guildford. (July, 1914).
Perreau, Mrs. G. A., 16 Evelyn Court, Lansdown Terrace, Cheltenham. (September, 1916).
Purvis, Mrs. C. J., West Acres, Alnwick, Northumberland. (October, 1920)
Pyman, Miss E. E., West House, Hartlepool. (May, 1919).

Quincey, R. de Quincey, The Vern, Bodenham, Herefordshire. (Aug. 1910).

Rattigan, G. E., Fluder, Kingskerswell, Nr. Newton Abbott. (March, 1909).
Raynor, Rev. G. H., M.A., The Lilacs, Brampton, Huntingdon. (Dec. 1909)
Read, Mrs. W. H., The Vicarage, Marshchapel, Lincs. (rej. Jan., 1921).
Reeve, Capt. J. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).
Rice, L. K., Hirstmonceux, Sussex. (January, 1922).
Rogers, W. T., 21 Priory Villas, New Road, Brentwood. (October, 1907)
Rothwell, James E., 153 Sewell Avenue, Brookline, Mass., U.S.A. (February, 1911).
Rumsey, Lacy. 23 Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (October, 1911).
Ryan, G. E., (Bar-at-Law). 31 Porchester Terrace, Hyde Park, W. 2. (November, 1913).

Salkeld, W., Ravenswood, Kirkoswald, R.S.O., Cumberland. (June, 1922).
Schuyl, D. G., 12 Toe-Haringvliet, Rotterdam, Holland. (January 1914).
Scott, Capt. B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).
Scott, A. H., Furze Creek, Bosham, Sussex. (October, 1915).
Sebag-Montefiore, Mrs., East Cliffe Lodge, Ramsgate. (May, 1914).
Sich, H. L., Corney House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London, W. 4. (June, 1908).
Silver, Allen, F.Z.S., 18 Baneswell Road, Newport, Mon. (Rej. 1920).
Simpson, R. E., 25, Gloucester Avenue, Leeds. (December, 1907).
Slade, G. J., 34 Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton. (February, 1915).
Smith, W. W., 43 Connaught Road, Harlesden, N.W. 10. (April, 1920).
Snape, Maj. A. E., R.A.F., (*Hon. Business Secretary*), 5 Ryburn Avenue, Marton, Blackpool. (March, 1918).
Southcombe, S. L., Hill House, Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset. Sept. 1910).
Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (February, 1908)
Sprawson, Capt. E., M.C., M.R.C.S., etc., 68 Southwood Land, Highgate, London, N. 6. (October, 1913).
Stroston, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich, Cheshire. (January, 1911).
Stewart, B. T., Glenhurst, The Crosspaths, Radlett, Herts. (February, 1914)
Stokes, Capt. H. S., Longdon, Rugeley, Staffs. (June, 1922).
Storey, Mrs. K., Hawling Manor, Andoverford, Glos. (November, 1912).
Stott, A. E., 15 East Parade, Leeds. (January, 1915).
Suggitt, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (December, 1903).
Suggitt, W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (January, 1915).
Sutcliffe, Albert, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby. (May, 1907).
Swayne, Henry A., 29 Percy Place, Dublin. (January, 1913).
Sykes, J., 16 Shorthope Street, Musselburgh, Scotland. (January, 1912).

Taintegines, Baronne le Clement de, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset. (August, 1913).
Takano, T. Z., 67 Shichome, Honcho, Yokohama, Japan. (January 1922).
Taka-Tsukasa, N., 106, Hononuracho Azabu, Tokyo, Japan. (Jan. 1922).
Tavistock, The Marquis of, Warblington House, Havant, Hants. (Jan. 1913)
Tomlinson, Malcolm R., Shepherd's House, Inveresk, Midlothian. (April, 1913).

Townsend, S. M., 3 Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Orig. Mem.).
Tracy, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Shaldon, Teignmouth. (February, 1914).
Travers, Mrs. Johnson, 20, Allwyn Park, Dulwich. (December, 1903).
Turner, Herbert J., Tremadoc, Keyberry Road, Newton Abbott. (Feb. 1915)

Valentine, E., 7 Highfield, Workington. (December. 1911).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4 Great Stuart St., Edinburgh. (Feb. 1909)
Wait, Miss L. M. St. A., 12 Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London. S.W. (December. 1907).
Walker, H. Carr, Pannal Hall, Pannal, Near Harrogate. (Marrch, 1916).
Wallace, Norman H., Iveragh, Shelbourne Road, Dublin. (June, 1917).
Walmsley, J., " Dalecot," Mayfield Road, St. Annes-on.Sea. (May, 1919).
Waud, Capt., Falcon Close, Woolton Hill, Newbury. (January, 1922).
Watson, S., 37 Tithebarn Street, Preston. (September, 1910).
Wedge, E., Overdale Cottage, Chorley Wood, Rickmansworth, Herrts. (February, 1915).
Weir, J., Douglas Cottage, Ashley, New Milton, Hants. (1920).
Wellington, H. G., The Duchess of, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke, Hants. (April, 1918).
Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead, Somerset. (September, 1907).
Whistler, Hugh I. P., c/o King, King & Co., Agents, Bombay, India. (January, 1913).
White, A. J., Glenshire, Barrowby Road, Grantham. (November, 1916).
Whitley, H., Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon. (January, 1916).
Willford, Henry, (*Hon. Photographer*), Uplands View, Haven Street, Ryde (July, 1908).
Williams, Sidney, F.Z.S. (*Hon. Treasurer and Exhibitional Secretary*), "Oakleigh," 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N. 13. (October, 1910).
Williamson, T. F. M., Apartment 411, St. Katherine Alps, 1242, Polk St., San Francisco, California, U.S.A. (August, 1917).
Wilson, Miss F. M., 35 Emanuel Avenue, Acton, Middlesex. (March, 1906)
Winchilsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford (June, 1903).
Windybank, L. A., Blean Hyrst, Blean, Nr. Canterbury. (June, 1916).
Wood, Dr. Casey. 7 West Madison Street, Chicago, U.S.A.
Woodward, Kenneth N., Camp 1, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1915).
Workman, W. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast (June, 1912)

Young, C. R., c/o Eastern Telegraph Co. Ltd., 2 Rue St. Cannat, Marseilles, France. (January, 1920).

Zoological Society, The New York, 185th Street and Southern Boulevard, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1917).
Zoological Society of Philadelphia, The, Philadelphia, Penna, U.S.A. (January, 1920).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above List

The Foreign Bird Club.

Hon. Solicitor.

H. R. Fillmer, Brendon, 22 Harrington Road, Brighton.

Hon. Photographer.

H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, Ryde.

Magazine Committee.

Dr. M. Amsler
W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.
Lt.-Col. H. Legh de Legh
N. S. Lucas, M.B., F.Z.S.
Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh, F.Z.S.
Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.
R. Suggitt
H. Willford

Show Committee.

Capt. W. A. Bainbridge,
Lady Kathleen Pilkington
The Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
S. Williams, F.Z.S. (*Hon. Sec.*).

Social Committee.

H. G. The Duchess of Wellington
Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley
W. Bamford
W. T. Rogers (*Hon. Sec.*)
A Sutcliffe
N. S. Lucas, M.B., F.Z.S.

Awards Committee.

The Countess of Winchilsea
Capt. W. A. Bainbridge
H. Bright
Capt. G. E. Rattigan
E. W. Chaplin
R. Suggitt (*Hon. Sec.*)

Notices to Members.

Making F.B.C. Known: A circular describing the Objects and Privileges of the Club is being prepared, and it is hoped that the members will make good use of them among bird keepers in their locality, also when affecting sales or exchanges with those who do not belong to F.B.C. The Hon. Business Secretary, Maj. A. E. Snape, 41 John Dalton Street, Manchester, requests that members will write him stating how many of the above they think they can usefully distribute, so as to give him some idea how many to get printed.

The Club Journal: The late appearance of this issue is entirely owing to lack of copy, but the Hon. Editor expects to issue the April number at the appointed date. He requests members to assist him with

copy; there is much interesting copy they could supply from the past, even if their present collections are rather small. There is much need for *fully detailed* articles on such topics as the following:

My Aviaries—their Good and Bad Points.

Some Grassfinches I have kept.

Some Parrakeets I have successfully kept.

Some Softbills I have kept.

Some Doves and Pigeons I have kept.

Some Finches I have kept.

Soft-foods and their Compounding.

Such topics will not confine members to present possessions but will enable them to draw largely upon the past, and such articles will be a great help to new beginners in Foreign Bird Keeping, in fact are being asked for. It will not matter in the least if several members write upon the same topic, as diversified experience is always very valuable.

Coloured Plates: The Hon. Editor much wants to issue three or four with this volume, but this can only be done if members will subscribe about £50 for this purpose, and the Hon. Secretary would be obliged if members would send him their contributions for this object, which will be exclusively used for this purpose. We have several unpublished drawings by the late H. Goodchild (one or two the property of the Hon. Editor), all of which can be used for reproduction in Bird Notes, and the loan of others for reproduction can be obtained.

MAJ. A. E. SNAPE, *Hon. Business Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. The smallest donation will be thankfully acknowledged, both by the Hon. Sec. and in this Journal. We acknowledge the following with best thanks:—

	£	s.	d.
Child, F. R.	0	10	0
Hopkinson, Dr. E., D.S.O.	1	0	0
Wilson, Miss F. M.	0	1	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Rev. T. J. Hardy, Avenida Errazuriz 378, Valparaiso.
By Lt.-Col. H. Legh de Legh.

J Dixon Brunton, Inveresk Lodge, Inveresk, Midlothian.
By A. Sutcliffe and M. R. Tomlinson.

Mrs. A. E. Edwards, Drayton Cottage. Ruislip, Middlesex.
By Mrs. Chatterton.

Errata Re Roll.

J. Currie, for " 54 Wetherby Road " read 54 Netherby Road.
J. Weir, for " (1920) " read (Dec. 1912).

Changes and Corrections of Address.

A. Sutcliffe to Beechfield, Grimsby.
Mrs. A. Johnson Travers to Windmill Cottage, Mayfield, Sussex.
A. H. Barnes to 59 Oakhill Road, East Putney, London, S.W., 15.
J. Weir to Silver Street, Sway, Near Lymington.

Register of Club Breeders.

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be removed from their parents.

* Baily, W. Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.
Rosella Parrakeets — Bronze-wing Doves
Stanley Parrakeets — Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Conures — Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves.

Boosey, E. J., The Cedars, Bromley Common, Kent.
Red-rump Parrakeets — Green Budgerigars
Pennant Parrakeets — Diamond Sparrows
Zebra Finches.

* Bourke, Hon. Mrs. G., 75, Gloucester Place, London, W.
Blue Budgerigars

* Burgess, Mrs. M., Helston House, 56, St. John's Road, Clifton, Bristol.
Blue Budgerigars — Green-blue-bred Budgerigars
Olive Budgerigars — Roller Canaries
Yellow Budgerigars.

* Chatterton, Mrs. A., Talodi, King's End Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex.
Budgerigars — Cockateels
Zebra Finches — Roller & Yorks. Carnaries

* Calvocoressi, P. J., Home Bey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

* Marsden, J., F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs
Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars — Japanese Bantams

* Montefiore, Mrs. H. Sebag, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars — Cockateels

* Pithie, Miss D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.
Zebra Finches.

Reeve, Capt. J. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Leadenham House, Lincoln.
Triangular-spotted Pigeons.

Tavistock, The Marquis of, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.
Stanley Parrakeets Barnard's Parrakeets

* Tracey, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

Any member wishing their name added to this register must send in their name with full particulars as to species they possess breeding pairs of, to the Hon. Business Secretary.

The Bird Market.

Members' Rates: ONE PENNY PER WORD; MINIMUM ONE SHILLING. Non-members and all Trade advertisers must apply to the Agents (*vide* page *iii.* of cover). Advertisements for respective issues must be sent to the Hon. Editor not later than the 8th of each month.

* * *

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Pairs of Stanley, and Red-rump Parrakeets; Amherst. Reeves, and Golden (1922) Pheasants.—Mad. Lecallier, 109 Rue de la Republique, Caudebec les Elbeuf, France.

WANTED: Hen Diamond Dove; pair Blossom-headed Parrakeets. FOR SALE, or would exchange: hen Cockateel; Zebra Finches; Yorks. Canary hens; 1 pair Yellow and 3 pairs Green Budgerigars (adults), all outdoor bred.—Mrs. Chatterton, King's End Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex.

FOR SALE: Pairs White Java Sparrows, 30s.; Zebra Finches, 12s. 6d.; Cocks, Hybrid Red-headed × Cutthroat Finches, 6s. 6d.; Siskin × Canary, Torquay and Paignton, 15s. 6d.; and Blackbird, 12s. 6d., singing. Hens, Quail Finch 15s.; hand-reared Virginian Cardinal, 70s.—Rattigan, Kingkerswell. South Devon.

WANTED: Cock Indian Green-winged Dove.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Club Journal: The Hon. Editor thanks those members who have responded during the month with copy, and trusts that many more will do so, and thus enable him to issue the Journal regularly at the proper publishing date, viz: 15th of each month. Members are referred back to Notices in last issue, when they will see along what lines copy is most needed, but articles upon any phrase of aviculture will be welcome; the same applies to Field Notes from members resident abroad.

Alteration Of Name: Mrs. M. Burgess, Helston House, 56, St. John's Road, Clifton, Bristol, to Mrs. M. Dalton-Burgess, F.Z.S., address remains the same.

MAJ. A. E. SNAPE, *Hon. Business Secretary*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Post Mortem Reports.

For Rules vide *page ii. of cover.*

March 18th, St. Helens Waxbill (♀): Mrs. Alice Chatterton, Ruislip.—Died from congestion of lungs.

March 26th, Zebra Finch; Bluebird (♂); Blue Budgerigar (♀): H.G. the Duchess of Wellington. Ewhurst Park.—Answered by post.

C. H. HICKS.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. The smallest donation will be thankfully acknowledged by the Hon. Sec., and in this Journal. We acknowledge the following with best thanks:—

	£	s.	d.
Atkinson, Capt. F. B.	0	1	0
Christie, Mrs. G.	1	10	0
Davies, Mrs. M. H.	0	1	0
Garcke, Mrs. C.	0	1	0
Lucas, Capt., N.S.	0	1	0
Rothwell, J. E.	1	0	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Rudolphe Meyer de Schauensee, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
By Maj. A. E. Snape, O.B.E.

J. H. Sladden, 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft.
By the Hon. Editor.

New Members Elected.

Rev. T. J. Hardy, Avenida Errazuriz 378, Valparaiso.

J. Dixon Brunton, Inveresk Lodge, Inveresk, Midlothian.

Mrs. A. E. Edwards, Drayton Cottage, Ruislip, Middlesex.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Guy Falkner, F.Z.S., to Toddenham, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos.

Register of Club Breeders.

Vide Feb-March issue, green pages 15-16.

The Bird Market.

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* * *

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

WANTED: Cock acclimatised Cactus Conure.—Mrs. M. Read. The Vicarage, Marsh Chapel, Lincs.

FOR SALE: Pairs White Java Sparrows 30s., Zebra Finches 12s. 6d.; Cocks, Red-headed × Cutthroat Finch hybrids 6s. 6d., Siskin × Canary mule, wonderful songster, second in large class mixed mules Torquay and Paignton, only times shown 15s. 6d. Hand-reared Thrush, 1st Torquay, 15s. 6d., ditto Blackbird in full song 12s. 6d. Hen: Quail Finch 15s.; hand-reared Virginian Cardinal 70s.—Rattigan, Kingskerswell, S. Devon.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Irregular Appearance of Magazine: The Editor has received one or two letters of mild grousing upon this topic; he greatly regrets the irregularity, but the fault does not lay at his door—if the members have not sufficient interest to supply copy about their birds, etc., or are too slack to do so, they must put up with the consequences; it is simply a case of *effect following cause*. May we courteously request that instead of grousing at Editor, Secretary, or Publisher, they will in future pay a little attention to that individual commonly designated "number one."

The Honorary Editor will be grateful for copy upon any topic of avicultural interest.

MAJ. A. E. SNAPE, *Hon. Business Secretary*

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

(Coloured Plate) Illustration Fund.

The following donations are acknowledged with the Committee's best thanks:

	£	s.	d.
Davey, R. W.	0	5	0
Dixon-Brunton, J.	0	10	0
F. Z. S.	2	0	0
Gambia	2	0	0
Gorringe, Rev. R. E. P.	0	5	0
Hawkins, J. E. H.	0	1	0
Scott, A. H.	0	1	0
Sproston, Mrs.	0	5	0
Suggitt, R.	0	10	0
Turner, H. J.	0	10	0
Wedge, E.	0	1	0
Willford, H.	1	0	0

A printer's error occurred in the list in last issue: Mrs. G. Christie £1, *should read* 10s.

Miss F. M. Wilson has kindly presented a number of back, unbound vols. of B.N. and Avic. Mag. for sale for the benefit of this fund—details will appear in next issue.

Proposed for Election as Members.

C. T. Metzger, 6312, So. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.
By Maj. A. E. Snape, O.B.E.

C. H. Macklin, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Ampthill, Beds.
By Wesley T. Page.

New Members Elected.

Rudolphe Meyer de Schauensee, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
J H. Sladden, 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

E. H. Harper, to 20, Howbury Street, Bedford.
K Woodward, to Blairstown, N.J., U.S.A.
H. T. Boyd, to 80a, Fordwych Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.2.
Miss F. M. Wilson, to 15, Goldsworth Avenue, Acton, London, W.3.

Register of Club Breeders.

Vide Feb-March issue, green pages 15-16.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: ONE PENNY PER WORD; MINIMUM ONE SHILLING. Non-members and all Trade advertisers must apply to the Agents (*vide* page *iii.* of cover). Advertisements for respective issues must be sent to the Hon. Editor not later than the 8th of each month.

* * *

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Cock Yellow-wing Sugarbird, acclimatised and in perfect feather, 70s.—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: Pair of Turtle Doves, 20s.—W. G. Birkbeck, Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich

N.B.—The Hon. Editor is away from home, and there may be possibly one or two ommissions from the notices this month: if so, such will be put right in next issue.—ED.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon. Editor much regrets that "B.N." is only appearing bi-monthly at present—just as soon as *copy* is sufficiently plentiful the monthly issue will be resumed.

MAJ. A. E. SNAPE, *Hon. Business Secretary*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

In Memoriam of a Grey Parrot.

IN PERPETUAL MEMORY OF

CATTY-ANNE,

The beloved companion of B. Theo. Stewart, who fell asleep July 25th, 1919.

Thou was't not born for Death, Immortal Bird.
—Mine is no narrow creed,
And He who gave thee being did not frame
The mystery of Life to be the sport
Of merciless man. There is another world
For all that live and move—a better one,
Where the proud bipeds who would fain confine
Of their own charity—may envy thee.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. We are hoping to issue some coloured plates with the 1924 volume.

Proposed for Election as Member.

Mrs. Grattan-Doyle, Osborne House, Potters-Bar, Herts.

By A. E. Sutcliffe and W. T. Page.

New Members Elected.

C. T. Metzger, 6322, So. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.
C. H. Macklin, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Ampthill, Beds.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Dr E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., etc., to 45 Sussex Square, Brighton.
Mr. H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S., to 1 Redfield Lane, Earl's Court, London, S.W.,5.

Register of Club Breeders.

Vide Feb-March issue, green pages 15-16.

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* * *

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Cock Yellow-wing Sugarbird, acclimatised and in perfect feather, 60s. WANTED: Cock Spot-billed Toucanette.—Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

N.B.—This issue has been put through under great difficulties—if there should be any omission in Notices, etc., such will be rectified in next issue.—ED.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.—There are still a few outstanding, and these members must be aware of the fact, as they have received more than one application for same. The Hon. Sec. requests that same be remitted at once.—The income of the Club does not fully cover expenditure, which consists of BIRD NOTES, Medals, and very low Working Expenses; our sole income is from subscriptions and donations—*all* your officers are Honorary—with this brief explanation we are assured that all will see the *necessity* for the prompt payment of subscriptions—true there are not many still unpaid, *but subscriptions should all be paid during the first quarter of the year at latest*, and thus avoid the NEEDLESS expense and trouble of making postal application for same.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley and Dr. M. Amsler retire from the Council this year, but are eligible for re-election. Any member may nominate another member for the Council, and any member is eligible to serve, but nomination papers must reach the Hon. Secretary, Major. A. E. Snape, 41, John Dalton Street, Manchester, not later than December 5th next.

It is suggested that next year the whole of the Council and Officers of the Club resign, and have a postal ballot for the election of same. It is further our intention to resume in 1924 the publication of an annual balance sheet in the Club Journal.

MAJ. A. E. SNAPE, *Hon. Business Secretary*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

An Important Veterinary Work.

VETERINARY OPHTHALMOLOGY,

By DR. EUGENE NICOLAS, Principal Veterinary Surgeon with the French Army in the Levant. Honorary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Translated, Edited and Enlarged by HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S., Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, Contributor to Hoare's System of Veterinary Medicine, Hoare's Veterinary Therapeutics, The Encyclopædia of Veterinary Surgery, Medicine and Obstetrics, Revisor of Fleming's Practical Horse Keeper, Dr. Greene's work The Grey Parrot, Author of The Diseases of Poultry, Etc., Etc.

The only work in the English Language on The Diseases of the Eye of Domesticated Animals written from a Veterinary Standpoint and by Veterinary Surgeons.

Cr. 8vo., pp. XVI. + 598 including 20 pp. index and 225 Figures in the Text.
PRICE **16**s. *Nett, by post* **16/6**
H. & W. BROWN, 20 Fulham Road, London, S.W. 3.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

	£	s.	d.
Barnard, T. T.	2	3	0
Hopkinson, Dr. E., D.S.O.	1	17	0
Powell, Miss M. M.	0	1	0
Sutcliffe, A.	2	2	0

New Member Elected.

Mrs. Gratton-Doyle, Osborne House, Potters-Bar, Herts.

Proposed for Election as Member.

Paul F. Stillman, 105 Bank Street, New York City, U.S.A.
By W. H. Browning.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

R. H. Carr, to Bright-Side, Letchworth Road, Western Park, Leicester.
F. W. Harper, to c/o Thos. Cook & Sons, Calcutta, India.
J Weir, to 2 Stanley Cottages, Ashley, New Milton, Hants.
W W. Smith to "Cranmer," Dower Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.
Mrs. I. E. Kennedy, to 36a Penywern Road, Earl's Court, London, S.W.

Delete from Roll.

J. Dobbie—deceased.

Register of Club Breeders.

Vide Feb-March issue, green pages 15-16.

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Two handsome Indian Hill Mynahs or would exchange for perfectly tame Senegal Parrot.—Rice, Herstmonceaux, Sussex.

FOR SALE: All-wire Aviary which has stood in centre of greenhouse, has been used for small finches and waxbills, etc. Size—7½ft. by 5½ft. by 7½ft. high at ridge, 5½ft. at eaves; the framing is wood, type span-roof, wire-work straight woven—in good condition, it is sectional, easily moved and re-erected, originally cost £8, would accept £4 for quick sale.—J. Smith, Woodland, Kendal.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Election for Council: No other nominations having been sent in, the retiring members are duly re-elected.

The Club Journal: While regretting the late appearance of this issue of Bird Notes, the Hon. Editor wishes it to be clearly understood that the cause thereof lies entirely "at his door," from sheer inability to find the time to issue it earlier. December and January issues of Bird Notes always have and, he fears, always will be, late; indices in the former case, and rectification of Roll in the latter being responsible for this. Apart from this he hopes the vol. for 1924 will appear with fair regularity at the appointed time, viz: the bi-monthly issues as near the 15th day of (January—February issue cannot appear earlier than 20 to 24th of February) April, June, August, and October as can be accomplished. This explanation is not offered as an apology but in the interest of the Club and its Journal.

The Hon. Editor and Business Secretary ask the co-operation of each individual member's assistance, so that this may be accomplished. What is needed is clearly stated in the Hon. Secretary's Report, and a Retrospect, which appear elsewhere in this issue, and the thoughtful consideration of members is directed thereto.

It is possible that one or two notices for this issue may have been omitted; if so, such will duly appear in next issue.

MAJ. A. E. SNAPE, *Hon. Business Secretary*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. All donations, however small, will be gratefully acknowledged under the above heading by the Committee. We hope to include at least two coloured plates from drawings by the late H. Goodchild with the 1924 vol. of Bird Notes.

Register of Club Breeders.

Vide Feb-March issue, green pages 15-16.

Important: The Hon. Editor requests members to refer thereto, and to notify him at once of any corrections required or additions thereto, as the 1924 register should appear in our next issue.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

A. Sutcliffe to Beechfield, Grimsby.
Miss F. M. Wilson to 15, Goldsmith Avenue, Acton, London: W., 3.
Rev. Thos. Hardy, Chaplain, The Missions to Seamen, Casilla 1380, Valparaiso

Proposed for Election as Member.

J. Stark, Woods Cottage, Haddington, Scotland.
By T. Hebb and Wesley T. Page.
Thos. L. S. Dooly, Boyne Lodge, Formby, Near Liverpool.

New Member Elected.

Paul F. Stillman, 105 Bank Street, New York City, U.S.A.

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Real blue-bred Green Budgerigars (guaranteed one parent Blue) 30s. each. One Blue and one blue-bred Green, £5 the pair; pair Red-rumps, show condition, reared young 1923, £4; cock Blossom-head Parrakeet.—Hebb, Brooklea, Downs, Luton.

FOR SALE: One pair Green Budgerigars, one Yellow Budgerigar cock, 3 cock Zebra Finches, 3 Goldfinch-Canary mules, several Yorkshire and Roller cock Canaries. Would exchange to value for blue-bred budgerigars.—Chatterton, Kingsand, Ruislip.

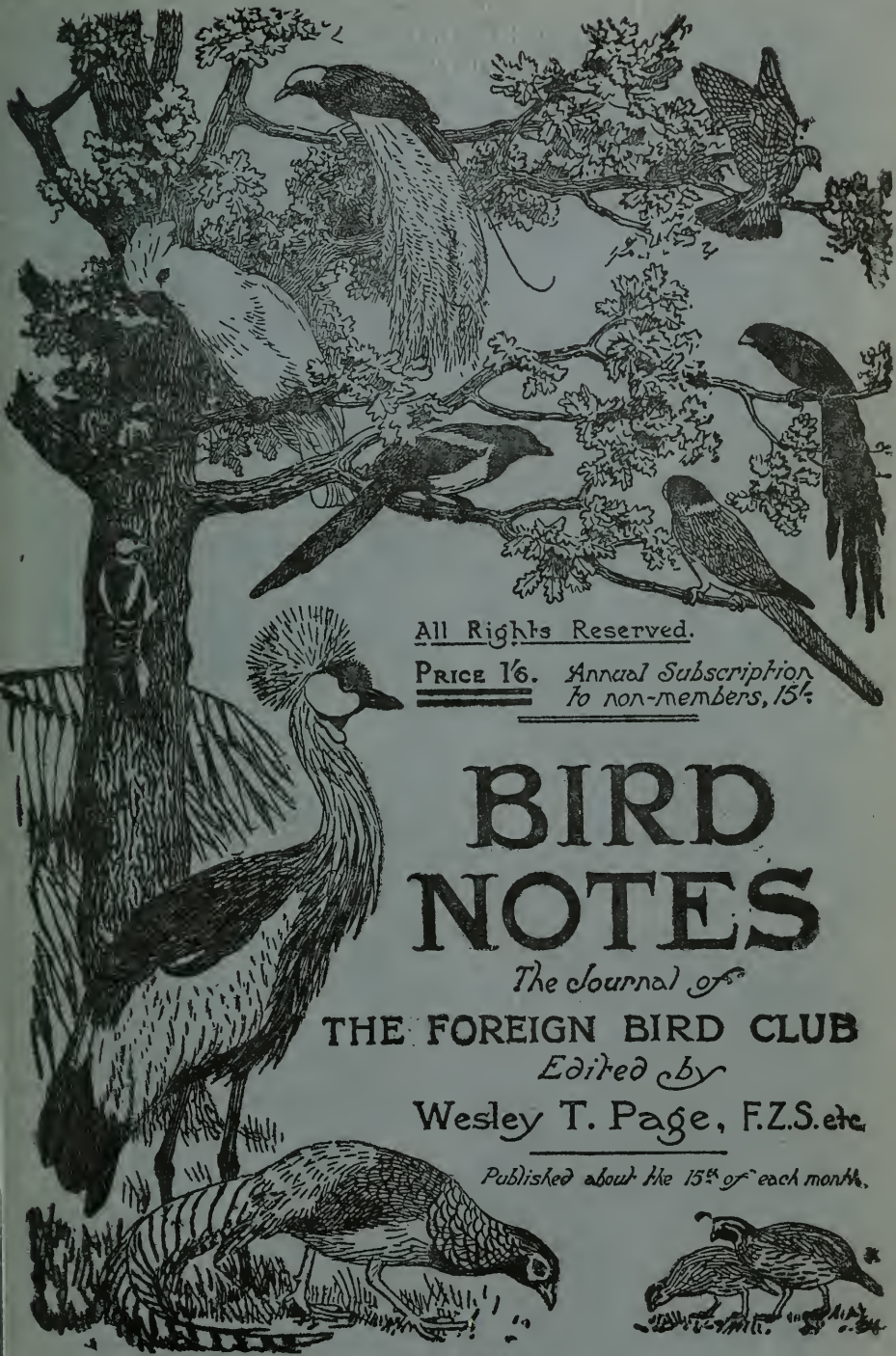
FOR SALE: Crimson-wing Parrakeet 1923; Pennants' Parrakeet 1923; Ho-ki or Eared Pheasants 1923; Mandarin Ducks, all very fine subjects and per couple.—M. Lecallier, 109 Rue de la Republique, Caudebec les Elbeuf, France.

EXCHANGE: I should be glad to exchange (or buy) a pair of Parrot Finches. I have some nice 1923 young ones in my aviary and desire to avoid inbreeding.—A. Decoux, Gery, Aixe-sur-Vienne, Haute-Vienne, France.

FOR SALE: Four fine cock Zebra Finches, outdoor aviary-bred, 7s. each. Mrs. Read, Marshchapel Vicarage, Lincs.

FOR SALE: Cock Bearded Tit, hen Red-billed Weaver; also fine pair White-breasted Caiques, and hens Spot-billed Toucanette and Red-rumped Cassique, the two latter I would either sell or purchase mates for.—Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

Series III. JANUARY 1923. Vol. VI. No. 1.



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BIRD NOTES

The Journal of

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Edited by

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. etc.

Published about the 15th of each month.

ASHBOURNE.

Printed and Published by J. H. Henstock, Avian Press.

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Some African Sparrows in My Aviaries in 1922 By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

Hybrid Doves, Etc. ..... By E. Sprankling

"Au Secours" By B. Theo. Stewart

A Few Notes on an East African Weaver By Chas. R. Young

The Pied Wagtail ..... By R. Suggitt.

Some Finches I Have Kept By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

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Post Mortem Reports.

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POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

A Report will appear in next issue of "B.N.," and members are requested to only ask for a reply per post in cases of urgency.

RULES.

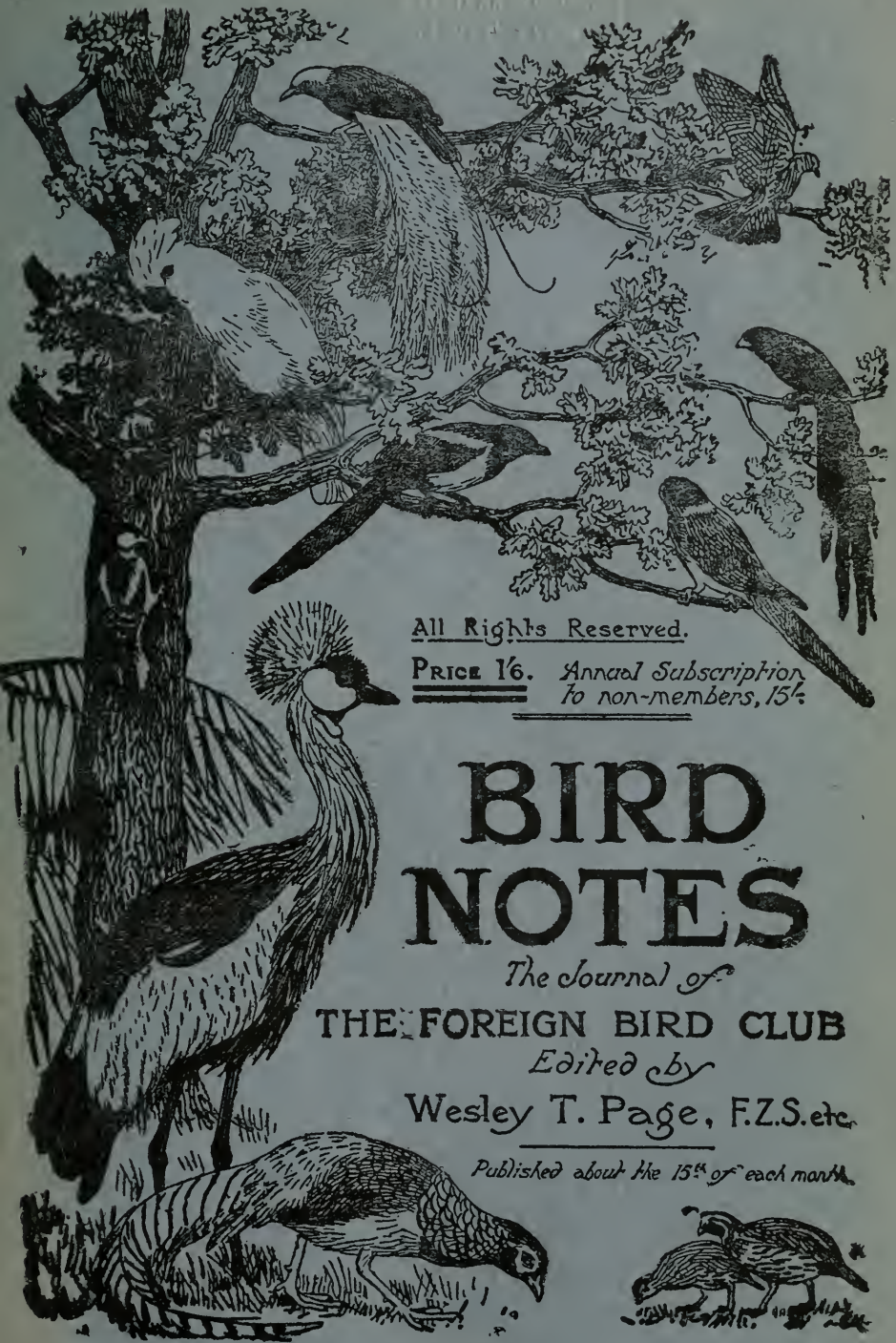
(1) A short account of the illness should accompany the specimen. All birds to be sent as fresh as possible to

Mr. C. H. Hicks,
The Prosectorium,
The Zoological Society,
Regent's Park, London, N.W., 8.

(2) Should any member require an immediate reply per post, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed with the bird.

(3) No body or skin of any bird will be returned under any circumstances whatever

Series III FEBRUARY & MARCH, 1923. Vol. VI. Nos. 2 & 3.



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Three Beautiful Niltavas By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Indian Doves—Doves that are not what they seem By D. Dewar

Some Finches I have Kept By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

My Sombre Honey-Eater By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Feeding and Keeping Hardbills By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. etc

Correspondence.

Post Mortem Reports.

Inset.

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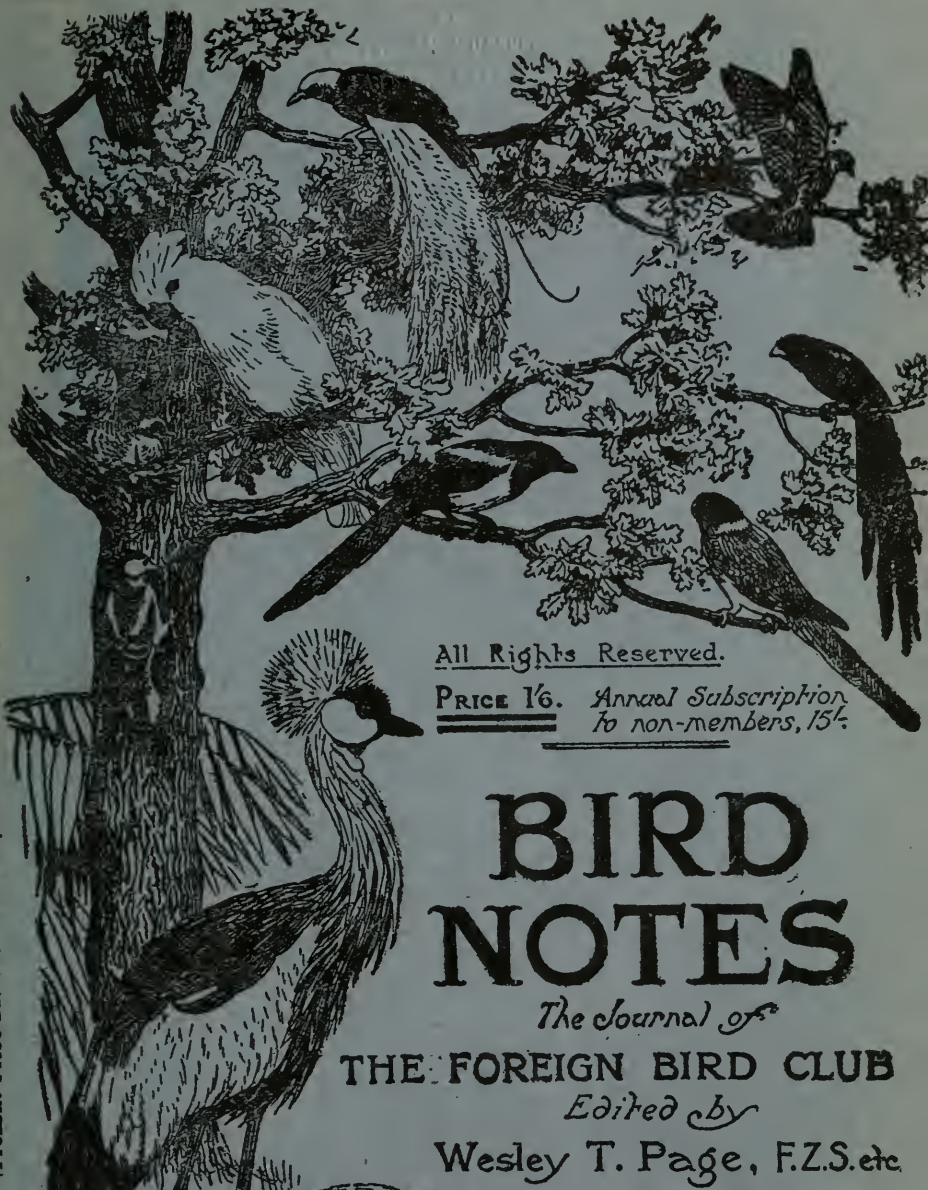
Series III. APRIL, 1923. Vol. VI. No. 4.



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CONTENTS.

Some African Thrushes ..... By W. Shore Baily, F.Z.S.

My Birds ..... By Capt. H. S. Stokes, F.Z.S.

My Birds.—In Aviaries and at Liberty By Edward J. Boosey.

Long-tailed Grassfinches ..... By E. S. Sprankling.

Feeding and Keeping Hardbills By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S, etc

Australian Birds ..... By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Report.—Zoological Society of London, 1922.

Correspondence.

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MEMORANDA FOR MEMBERS.

Annual Subscription to Members 20s., due on the 1st January in each year, and payable in advance.

A new Volume commences every January.

All subscriptions and donations to be sent to the Hon. Business Secretary, and addressed as under:

Major A. E. Snape, 41, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

All MSS. for publication, members' adverts, queries re birds and aviaries, and correspondence for BIRD NOTES to be sent to the Hon. Editor, W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

All enquiries as to the treatment of Birds should be sent to the following gentlemen: Parrots and Parrakeets, H. T. Camps, F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely; all other species (Frugivorous, Insectivorous, Seed-eaters, etc.), W. T. Page, F.Z.S., Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

All Letters referring to the above, identification of birds, etc., must contain a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

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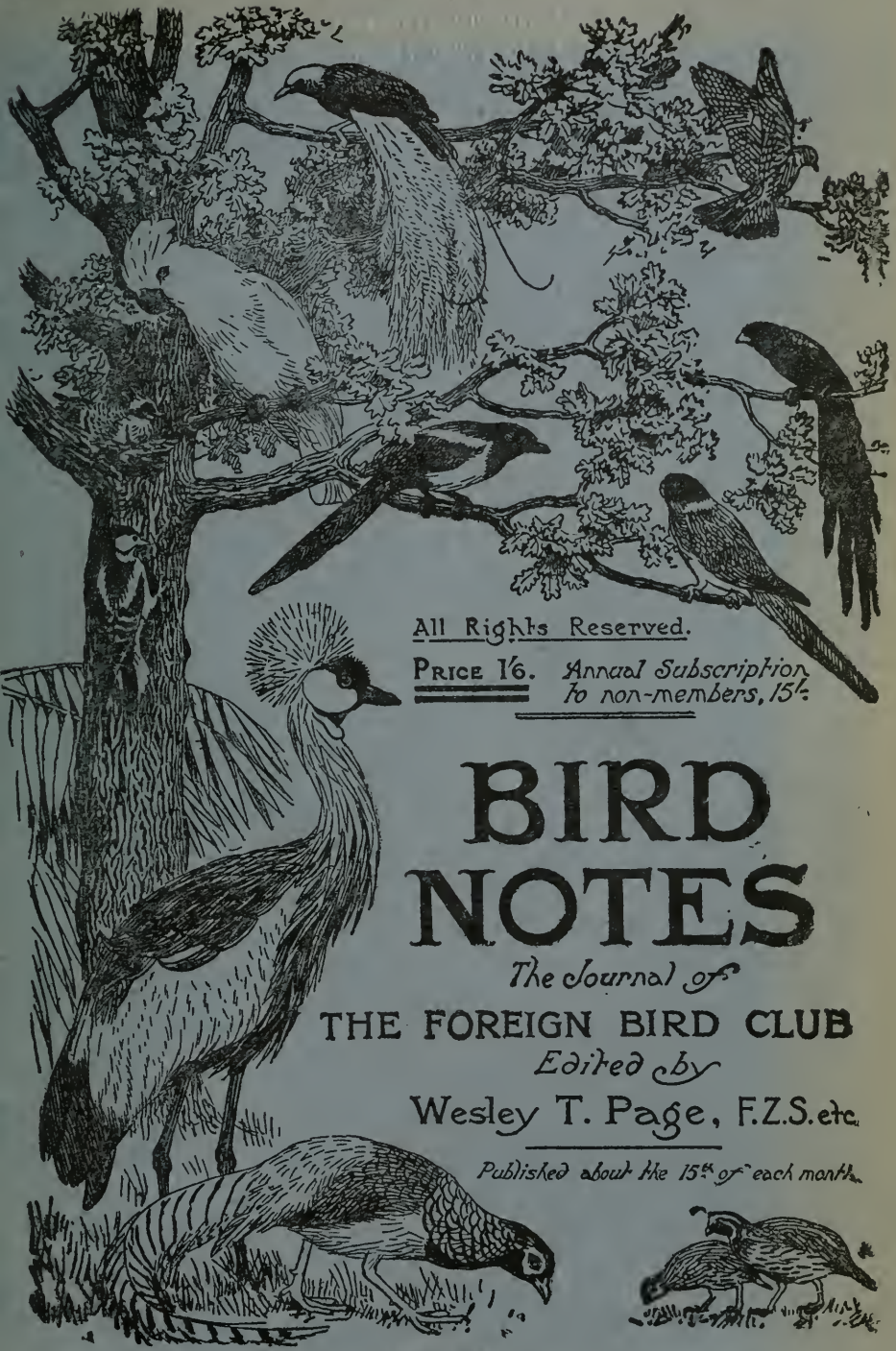

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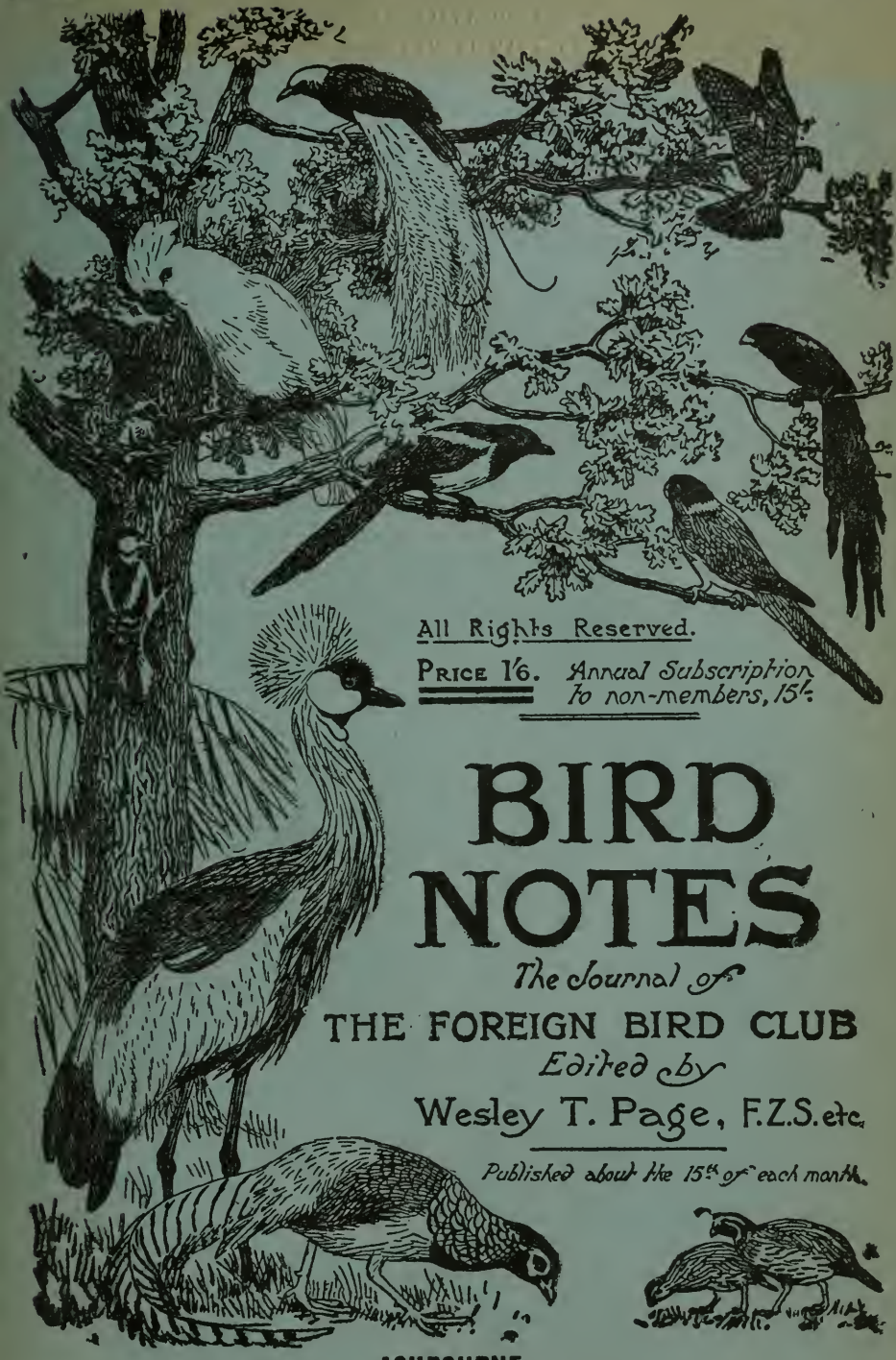

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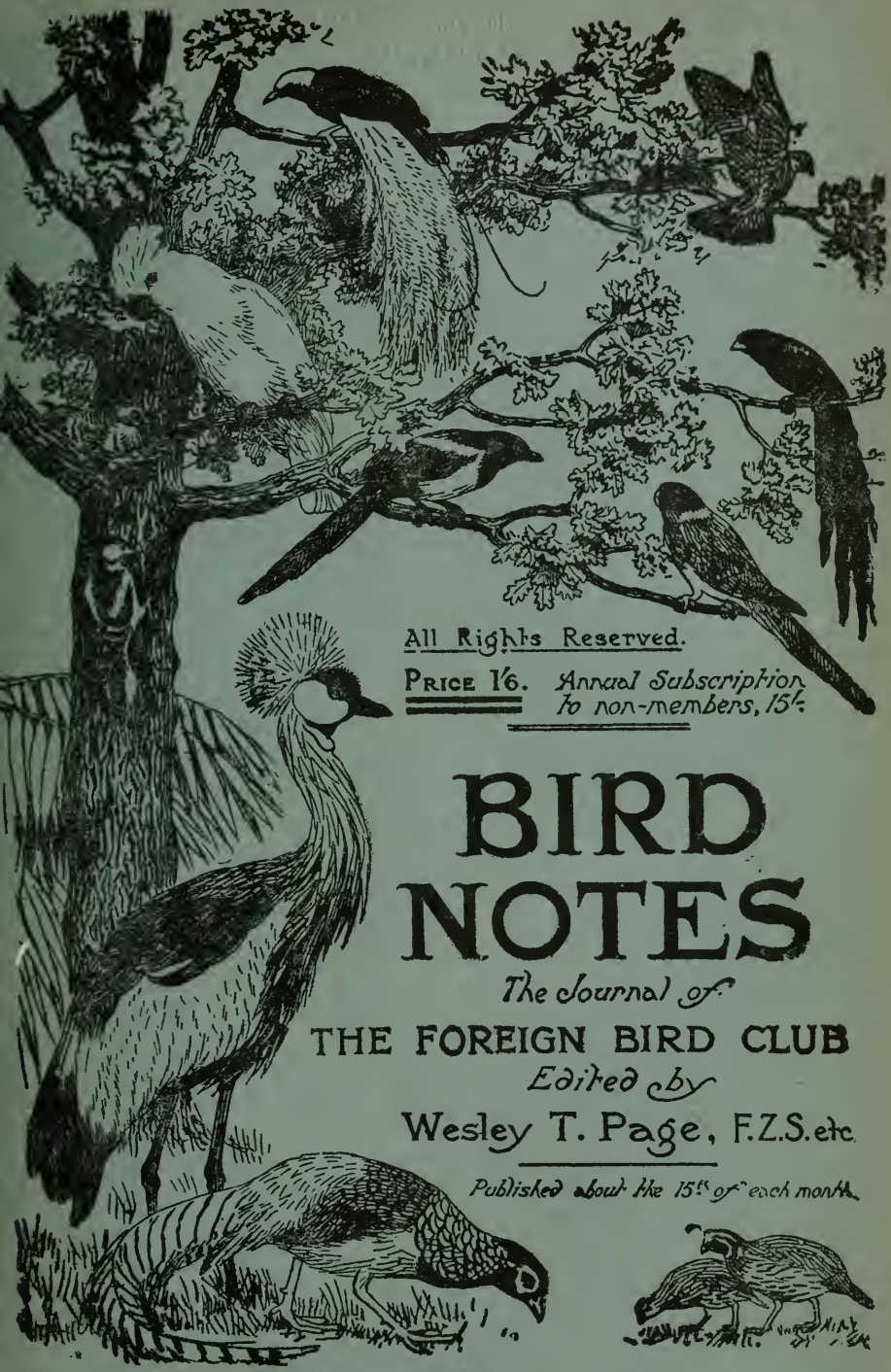

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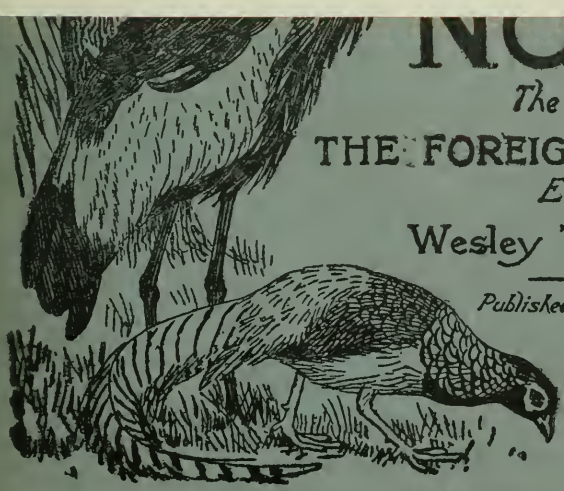

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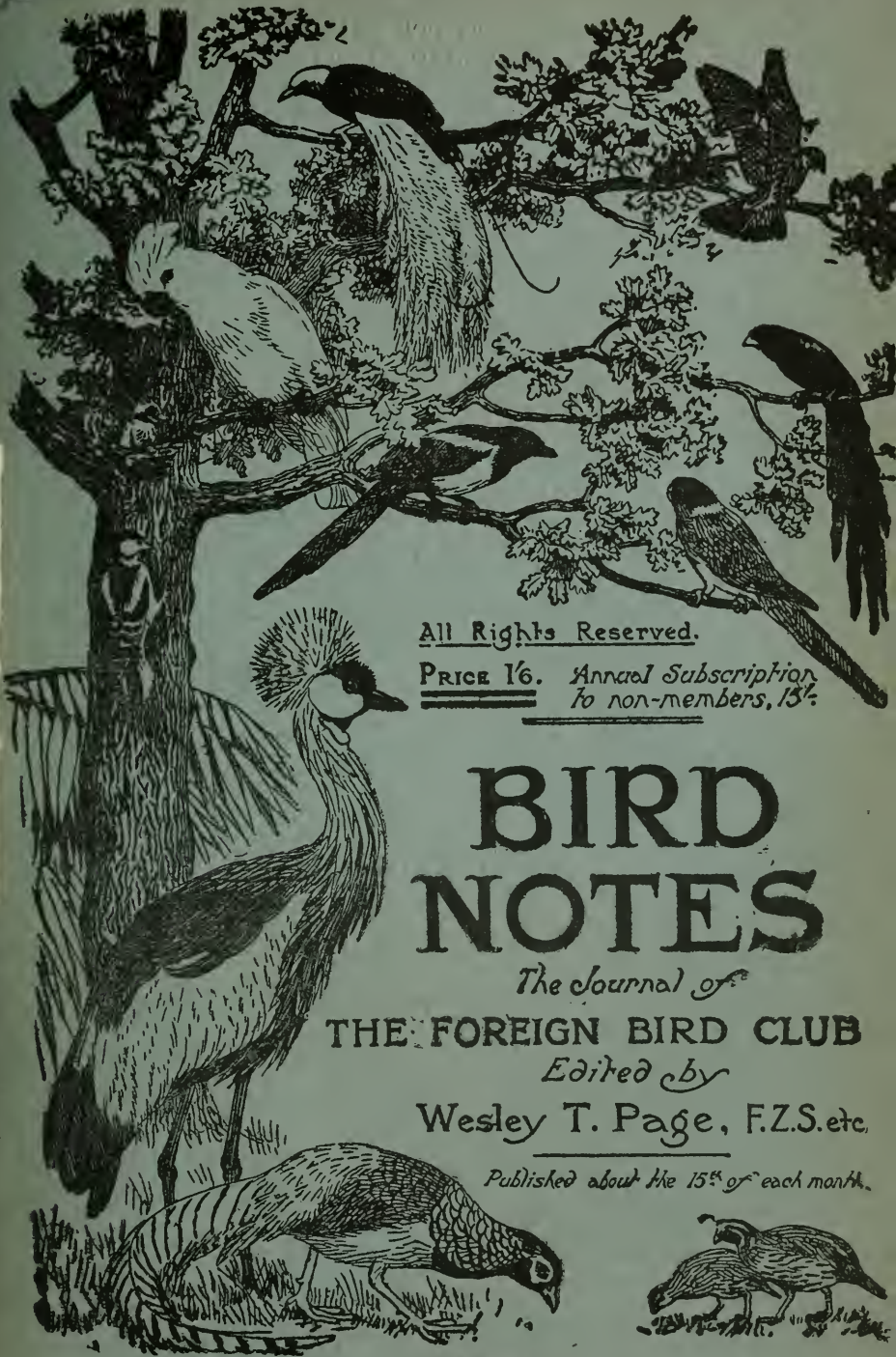

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Post Mortem Reports.

General Index.

Inset.

POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

A Report will appear in next issue of "B.N.," and members are requested to only ask for a reply per post in cases of urgency.

RULES.

(1) A short account of the illness should accompany the specimen. All birds to be sent as fresh as possible to

Mr. C. H. Hicks,
The Prosectorium,
The Zoological Society,
Regent's Park, London, N.W., 8.

(2) Should any member require an immediate reply per post, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed with the bird.

(3) No body or skin of any bird will be returned under any circumstances whatever.

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in Captivity in Great Britain.

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